

Hafa Adai!

Kilili introduces \$100M NMI coronavirus emergency bill. **PAGE 3**
Attao, Mendiola sworn as NMTI board trustees. **PAGE 5**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 47

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY MARCH 9, 2020

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By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

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This follows the declaration

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See **FREEZE** on **Page 4**

Prize freeze expanded to include meds, masks, rent

Email threat shuts down MHS

» Threat allegedly directed at one person

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
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To ensure everyone's safety, all public and private schools located in the southern part

See **EMAIL** on **Page 4**

A Public School System bus leaves the Marianas High School as police do a sweep inside the campus in response to an email threat.

MARK RABAGO



2nd suspected COVID-19 turns up negative

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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See **COVID-19** on **Page 4**

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See **CPA** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

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PAGE 2



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PAGE 13



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PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

2020 NMI DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020

SAIPAN - WORLD RESORT'S TAGA BALLROOM
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Local

TRAC Team wins 3rd 'Race for Life'



JUSTINE NAUTA

The TRAC Team poses with IT&E representatives after they secured their win at the 3rd Annual Race for Life event at the Micro Beach yesterday.

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Out of seven teams, the Triathlon Association of the CNMI Team came out on top at the third Race for Life scavenger hunt of IT&E yesterday at Micro Beach.

The islandwide scavenger hunt had a Mario Kart theme.

The TRAC team, composed of Zaiyra Ganacias, Ira Marquez, Vernice Estepa, Andrew Estepa, and Floro Derexes, who all participate in many of the islands' marathons, completed the race in just 45 minutes.

Marquez, the team captain, said that their strategy focused on just looking for the QR codes that would give them the next clue in order to find the golden mushroom to secure their win. Overall, Marquez said that it was all a group effort and was mainly intended for the team to have fun.

The team was awarded gift cards to various restaurants (like the World Cafe at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, the Loria restaurant at Kensington Hotel Saipan), beach chairs, and more that were donated by partner agencies.

The teams were instructed to find six hidden QR codes that IT&E provided. Since the theme was Mario Kart, in or-

der to win the race, you would have to scan the QR code and solve the riddle to find the next destination that will lead you to the golden mushroom.

According to Kimberly Bautista, *Saipan Tribune* reporter who participated in the first Race for Life, said the second race was easier than this year's since all the coordinates were a given and participants just had to be there first. She also added that the difference was that this year "we had to get down and search the area in order to find the QR codes and get to the next coordinate that will lead us to winning the race."

IT&E general manager Rose Soledad said, "We are very thankful to all the teams and sponsors who are instrumental in the success of our annual fundraiser. We could not have pulled off another great event without their partnership and support."

According to IT&E representative Jason Palacios, all of the proceeds raised from the Race for Life event will go to the Marianas March Against Cancer.

The other teams that participated in the scavenger hunt were BBJ Athletics, Weekend Thang, Koopalings, *Saipan Tribune*, Team Marpac, Saipan Paddling Club, Explorers, MVariety, and ITS Corp.

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Kilili introduces \$100M NMI coronavirus emergency bill

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) has introduced legislation that would appropriate \$100 million for general government operations in the CNMI.

The bill, the Northern Mariana Islands Coronavirus Emergency Assistance Act, which the delegate introduced to the U.S. Congress last Thursday, March 5, sets to address the budget cuts and other austerity measures the Commonwealth is taking, following the negative effects the COVID-19 outbreak is having on the economy.

According to Sablan, his

bill is intended to make sure the people of the Marianas, especially the *man'amko* and the children, to continue to have access to care and education essential to health, safety, and wellbeing.

"The coronavirus will have an economic impact across our nation and the world. But because the Marianas is tourism-dependent and our tourists come from areas hit hard by the coronavirus—China, Korea, and Japan—we are at the frontline," he said. "My bill calls attention to our immediate need in the Marianas and will help push Congress to act quickly to face the economic effects of coronavirus."

Austerity won't affect accrual of leaves

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The austerity will have no effect on the accrual of annual and sick leaves of government employees.

In a letter to Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), CNMI Office of Personnel Management director Isidro K. Seman clarified that the accrual of leave benefits will remain despite the modified work schedule that is set to begin on March 15.

"Since employment status will not change and [the austerity] is essentially temporary in nature, the accrual rates for each employee will remain unchanged, unless by virtue of creditable service earned," Seman stated.

Seman added that the CNMI Administrative Code is "silent and does not address the issue so that the modified work schedule will have no effect on the accrual of these benefits."

Under the code, employees who have less than three years of creditable service are to earn an annual leave at the rate of four hours per pay period; those with three but less than six years of creditable service are to earn an annual leave at the rate of six hours per pay period; and employees with six or more years of creditable service are to earn annual leave at the rate of eight hours

per pay period.

Further, the code states that sick leave shall accrue to the employee at the rate of four hours per pay period, provided the employee has been in pay status as required by the excepted service employment contract.

This clarification came soon after Santos recommended that government employee benefits not be diminished by the modified work schedule, or "Austerity Friday," and be accrued as if the employee has worked a full 80 hours per pay period.

"As you know, public employees across the Commonwealth face a harsh reality: an over 20% reduction to their wages for an indefinite period of time. Families on each island are bracing for the full impact of austerity measures, and... it is our duty to soften the blow of these impending cuts," she said. "Our government employees already face a difficult road ahead; their benefits should not be jeopardized for circumstances beyond their control."

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During the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's dialogue with the House of representatives last week, board member Alex Sablan told of the Chamber's intention to ask Sablan for help from the federal government.

"We know that that legislation would be required of our delegate and we hope that we

could have a meeting in line to discuss this very point [COVID-19 effect on businesses]," Sablan said. "We know that the delegate, in the past, through the support of the administration, has gotten these threads that have helped us in these natural disasters and typhoons."

Sablan expressed concerns

about restrictions and access to markets, China shutting down, and the disruptions to the distribution pipeline.

"Our territories are going to be impacted, especially in the western Pacific. We're going to be impacted because we're isolated," Sablan added.

Last Friday, March 6, U.S.

President Donald J. Trump signed an \$8.3-billion emergency bill to fund federal agencies to combat the COVID-19 outbreak. There are currently 438 COVID-19 cases in the U.S. Worldwide, there are 106,162 recorded cases, with 60,190 recoveries and 3,600 deaths.

Teen Poetry Slam winners named

Victoria Igitol Pangelinan of Kagman High School finished first place in the 16-19 years old division of the Teen Poetry Slam held last March 2 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Another Kagman High School student, Jude Litulu-

mar, topped the 13-15 years old category of the contest, which was sponsored by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

Aside from Pangelinan, the other winners in the 16-19

years old division were Nehemiah Concepcion Fernandez of Saipan Southern High School and Maria Calma of Marianas High School who came in second and third places, respectively.

Elain Joy Fernandez of Saipan Southern High School came in second and Wynesia

Quinata of ChaCha Oceanview Middle School finished third in the 13-15 years old category.

The coalition said the purpose of the Teen Poetry Slam is to encourage CNMI teens to help spread awareness of teen dating violence and to

See TEEN on Next Page



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SEABEES ON TINIAN

Construction Mechanic 1st Class Joshua Hobbleman, deployed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5's Detail Tinian, operates a skid steer with a hydraulic concrete breaker attachment during the demolition of a building at Tinian Harbor. NMCB-5 is deployed across the Indo-Pacific region conducting high-quality construction to support U.S. and partner nations to strengthen partnerships, deter aggression, and enable expeditionary logistics and naval power projection.

U.S. NAVY/BUILDER 3RD CLASS ANDREW WARREN



Employees at Tinian Harbor offload Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5's Civil Engineering Support Equipment during Detail Tinian's embarkation to the island for future projects.

U.S. NAVY/BUILDER 3RD CLASS ANDREW WARREN



Equipment Operator 2nd Class Scott Valente, left, and Equipment Operator 2nd Class Mitchell McCune, both deployed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5's Detail Tinian, load a dozer onto a lowboy trailer prior to transporting it to the construction site.

U.S. NAVY/BUILDER 3RD CLASS ANDREW WARREN

FREEZE

From Page 1

the global spread of the virus arise.

Under the expanded prize freeze, prices of all medicines, medical equipment, and personal protective equipment, including but not limited to masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers; as well as all housing rentals, including apartments and condominiums, shall not increase.

A price freeze was earlier imposed on gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, natural gas, and all other chemical fuel, whether in gaseous, liquid, or solid form; all foods and foodstuffs, including water, bottled water, beverages, and ice; and all clothing.

Prices of flashlights, lamps, lanterns, candles, light bulbs, and other

means of illumination; generators, cables, wires, electrical batteries of every sort, and similar equipment for the generation and/or transmission of electrical power; and all appliances used in the storage and/or preparation of food, including, but not limited to, stoves, barbecue grilles, ovens, refrigerators, and coolers, have also earlier been frozen.

It also included a price freeze on all bedding items, including pillows, futons and blankets; and on tools typically used for construction, ground clearing, or home repairs, whether electrically powered, chemically powered, or manual, including, but not limited to, saws, machetes, hammers, drills, shovels, rakes, and brooms.

The governor noted last week that protecting the health and safety of residents includes protecting their

ability to provide for their families during the unanticipated economic downturn brought by COVID-19.

Torres, however, clarified that businesses are not inhibited from selling items at prices lower than prices at current levels.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios reiterated the call for the entire CNMI to come together and help each other out.

"This is an unprecedented economic crisis, and as a government, we will continue to protect our residents so they can meet their basic necessities. Now, more than ever, is the time to come together as one Commonwealth and look out for each other," Palacios added.

The price freeze will remain in effect until rescinded or until the declaration of significant emergency is terminated.

According to a release from acting Education Commissioner Kimo Rorario, when the threat was received, MHS officials immediately notified local authorities and nearby schools. All schools are immediately placed on lockdown.

"With the support of our local authorities and PSS Crisis Management Team, personnel were interviewed and classrooms and the school perimeter were searched to ensure that there were no weapons or unauthorized individuals on campus," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the last email threat to shoot down a school was received from a student at Kagman High School. The KHS email threat was the first threat of this year.

EMAIL

From Page 1

of Saipan were placed on lockdown until police gave the "all-clear" advisory.

Schools placed on lockdown include Saipan Community School, Koblerville Elementary School, Dandan Elementary School, Mt. Carmel School, and more.

Parents were seen thronging the perimeter of the MHS campus last Friday. Some of the parents said they were informed by the school's administration to come and pick up their child.

According to a DPS statement that was later released, DPS received a

report of an email threat sent from an MHS student email account at about 12:45pm last Friday.

At approximately 1pm, federal and local agencies were dispatched to the scene and did an extensive sweep throughout the campus. This search included the students and their classrooms. After a rigorous search, no weapon was found and no suspect was apprehended.

At about 2:53pm, an "all-clear" was declared and the lockdown was lifted. Students were then released to their parents or legal guardians. Despite the "all-clear" law enforcement agencies remained at the scene to further ensure the safety of the students as they made their way away from the area.

ERRATUM

On Friday, March 6, 2020, a story titled "Rogopes assaults fellow inmate" contained a grave factual error. The person in the story, Sylvestre Rogopes Sablan, was erroneously reported as having been convicted of assault. This is false. He was merely arraigned. We apologize to Mr. Sablan for this error.

COVID-19

From Page 1

tion. Still, just to be on the safe side, CHCC sent a specimen sample to the Hawaii laboratory as a precautionary measure to protect the community.

CHCC saw its first suspected case of a COVID-19 infection last Feb. 10 and submitted a specimen for testing to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention laboratory in Atlanta, Georgia. The patient was a suspect of low priority and did not meet the CDC case definition of COVID-19.

Eleven days later, CHCC received confirmation from CDC that the sample tested negative for the coronavirus. According to Zoe Travis, CHCC spokesperson, the CNMI still remains COVID-19-free.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Travis stated that CHCC will

continue to take precautionary measures to ensure the safety of the community and that they are readily prepared should the CNMI see its first confirmed case of COVID-19.

Travis also advises the community to continue to be cautious and protect yourself and others against this virus and other illnesses. Common symptoms for COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath/difficulty breathing.

If you have a symptom, even if you know that it's not coronavirus and not sure what it is, it is still advised that you wash your hands for at least 20 seconds or used an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, avoid close contact with people who are sick, stay home when you are sick, cover your cough/sneeze with a tissue and properly dispose of it, and clean and disinfect touched objects and surfaces frequently.

CPA

From Page 1

for Disease Control and Prevention any death or certain illnesses among the ship's passengers or crew. Once reported, the CDC Quarantine Station contacts the vessel to ensure that the appropriate public health actions are taken.

Maritime partners have been advised to follow the standard required reporting of symptoms for any sick traveler on international conveyances destined for the United States. Maritime partners have also been informed of the symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

In regard to cruise ships, CDC works directly with the ship's lead physician and the cruise line's medical director to obtain suspected individuals' medical and travel history. If a concern for COVID-19 arises after review of the travel history and the individuals' symptoms, CDC, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., will provide recommendations on a case-by-case basis for the sick travelers and other onboard.

In regard to non-cruise ships, if an individual has symptoms that are consistent with CDC's standard required reporting requirements, then the ship has been advised to collect, before notifying the CDC Quarantine Station, the following five pieces of

data: a list of the sick traveler's signs and symptoms, including onset dates; the sick traveler's highest recorded temperature; the sick traveler's embarkation date and port; the ship's ports of call during the 14 days before the person became ill; and a list of ports of call where the sick traveler disembarked during the 14 days before the person became ill. Like cruise ships, if a concern for COVID-19 arises after review of that individual's travel history and symptoms, CDC, in conjunction with CHCC, will provide recommendations on a case-by-case basis for the sick travelers and other onboard.

Last, if an individual suspected of being infected with COVID-19 arrives at the seaport, CDC will direct the captain of the ship or the ship's physician to have that individual wear a face mask, if able to, to prevent respiratory droplet transmission. CDC will also direct the paramedics and emergency medical services staff to wear appropriate personal protective equipment during transport of the individual. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection will assist with the expedited disembarkation of the individual to facilitate rapid transfer to a medical facility.

This information is the interim guidance provided to seaport partners for the management of sick travelers suspected of being infected with COVID-19 for ships arriving at U.S. ports of entry. (PR)

TEEN

From Page 3

promote healthy relationships during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

The coalition credited the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Systems of Care program and the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Intervention program for supporting the event.

The judges of the poetry contest were Jan Mack of the Micronesian

Legal Services Corp., Victoria Shiriff from CHCC, and Mardee Hermosilla, a KHS graduate and two-time winner of Teen Poetry Slam.

The event also featured Jeremiah Fernandez, DJ Gero, and performers from Saipan Music and Dance Studio.

"A major prop to every competitor who used their voice and amazing talent to spread awareness on the devastating issues of teen dating violence," a statement from the coalition read. (*Krzel Tuazon*)

Attao, Mendiola sworn as NMTI board trustees



IVA MAURIN

The new members of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute's board of trustees, Catherine Attao and Deron Alfred T. Mendiola, have their picture taken with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and supporters at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.



IVA MAURIN

TanHoldings vice president of corporate affairs and human resources Catherine Attao is sworn in as member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute's board of trustees by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. Left, last Friday, March 6, at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute's board of trustees is finally complete, with the swearing in last Friday, March 6, of Catherine Attao and Deron Alfred T. Mendiola.

Attao is the vice president of corporate affairs and human resources at TanHoldings, while Mendiola, a food and landscape business owner, is an early mentor at the Northern Marianas College-Rota Campus.

At the ceremony, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said the process to get the new board complete has been a long one, but with Attao and Mendiola in, it is time for NMTI to move forward.

"Everybody... knows what environment we are [in], how things change on a daily basis, and perhaps this is the time to shore up our training. One of the things that I shared with the governor is that we really need to take a closer look at the governance of NMTI and see how it could get improved," Palacios said.

The lieutenant governor added that it is time to review which projects and programs within NMTI are still relevant in the changing environment that the CNMI is in.

NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres said that Torres is "the right person to be in [the NMTI board] because she is a Human Resource Development person. That means "she knows what's the need for the CNMI in terms

port. "We should all be very grateful to having NMTI in addition to NNC in developing our workforce," Tan said.

"With the severe labor shortage and the challenges facing us, NMTI is going to play even a more important role.

Everyone in this community, especially the private sector, should really embrace and support [NMTI]."



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NAP bracing for rise in number of food stamp applicants

The agency that handles the local food stamp program is expecting an increase in food stamps applicants in the coming months as a result of the government's austerity measures brought about by the drop in tourism numbers.

Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Walter Macaranas said 2,535 households are currently enrolled in its food stamp program, but he expects the number to rise due to the tough economic conditions the CNMI is experiencing.

Macaranas said people who are currently in the program can continue to receive their benefits, provided they meet

the eligibility requirements. A lot more people are expected to apply for NAP benefits due to reduced work hours or some of them may have even been laid off from their jobs.

"We are here as a safety net to provide that assistance so that we are able to provide the nutritional need [and] people are able to subsidize their income for food to put on their family's table," said Macaranas.

In addition, people who are currently employed can still check their eligibility for NAP assistance. Eligibility requirements for food stamp approval include must be a U.S. citizen,

U.S. national, lawfully admitted permanent resident (green

card holders), an alien granted asylum under the Immigration and Nationality Act, a refugee who is admitted in the U.S.,

and certain aliens whose deportation is being withheld. The other criteria is they need to qualify for resource require-

ment which means bank accounts should be equal to or below the NAP thresholds. **(Chevy Alipio)**

PH consulate services over 1K

The Philippine Consulate-General in Guam, in partnership with the Philippine Honorary Consulate Mission-CNMI, was able to serve over a thousand Filipino nationals who availed of various consular needs at its recent four-day mobile outreach at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe.

The mobile consular mission provided the following assistance: 594 passport renewals, 17 dual citizenship

processing (adults) and two for minors, nine reports of birth, six notarial needs, two reports of marriage, and one travel documentation needs.

The consular outreach also did an overseas absentee voting registration for 587 Filipino nationals in the CNMI. The OAV registration is in preparation for the 2021 Philippine elections.

Philippine passport renewal is by appointment and the Philippine Consulate General

is reminding everyone to submit application for renewal in advance to be able to secure a biometric appointment.

The four-day consular mobile service was headed by acting Philippine Consul-General to Guam Mark Francis Hamoy. He was joined by Ellen Morco, Annabelle Oviendo-Lavarez, Fritz Gerald Fernandez, Jermyn Julius Checa, and Ferdinand Villamor who handled the OAV registration.

Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago

separately expressed his office's gratitude to IT&E-CNMI general manager Rose Soledad, Bhiya Canadalla, United Filipino Organization president Mar Masilungan, the Sun Palace Hotel, and all volunteers headed by Anna-mae Adaza for their support and assistance.

For any inquiries regarding passport renewals and other consular services, call the Philippine Consulate office in the CNMI at 233-6293. **(PR)**

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp



NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will Board Committee Meetings on Thursday, March 12, 2020, beginning 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom by the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan.

AGENDA

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 13, 2020)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 - 1. Business Gross Revenue Tax (BGRT)
 - 2. Airline Users Agreement
 - 3. Star Marianas Air
 - 4. Rota Concession Consultation Services
- IV. New Business:
 - 1. Supplemental Budget Request: SIA Commuter Terminal – A&E Services
 - 2. Supplemental Budget Request & Approval: SIA Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 CM Amendment No. 2
 - 3. Supplemental Budget Request & Approval: SIA Roof Typhoon Repairs – Construction Contract and CM Services
 - 4. Resolution No. 2020-04: Additional Austerity measures
 - 5. Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Budget
 - 6. Financial Affairs Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 - 1. Airport Operators Committee Updates/Report
 - 2. Solar updates
 - 3. Helicopter concerns
 - 4. Mobil
 - 5. CUC Power Plant 3
 - 6. Boutique Air/TSA status update
- IV. New Business:
 - 1. Lease:
 - a. SITA
 - b. United Cargo Facility
 - 2. Airport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 14, 2020)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 - 1. Seaport Police Boat
 - 2. A/E design for Seaport Ramp Paving
 - 3. Industrial Drive status update
 - 4. Tinian Marina Improvements
 - 5. Tinian Marine Stevedore
 - 6. Saipan Stevedore Lease
- IV. New Business:
 - 1. Seaport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 14, 2020)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business - None.
- IV. New Business:
 - 1. Employment Contract: Saipan Airport Manager
 - 2. Employment Contract: Staff Attorney
 - 3. Personnel Affairs Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

Persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the agenda items. A time limit may be imposed, for oral testimony.

Barrie C. Toves Ramon A. Tebuteb Pete P. Reyes Joseph M. Diaz
Airport Facilities Chair Financial Affairs Chair Seaport Facilities Chair Personnel Affairs Chair

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, March 25, 2020
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp



A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 02/25/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. Conditional Use Application #2020-0730: Shalom Church proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Church establishment. This use is classified as "Church or Place of Worship" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. TR. 21859-3-1 in Fina Sisu village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

2. Conditional Use Application #2019-5005: Global Corporation Phoenix Garden A proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 36 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

3. Conditional Use Application #2019-5007: Global Corporation Phoenix Garden C proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 43 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

4. Conditional Use Application #2019-4940: Saba Corporation proposes to occupy a pre-existing structure for its Car Wash establishment. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No 001 I 41 in San Antonio village. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

C. Communication

1. Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation ("SNILD") Proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2019
2. Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 regulation
3. Re-appointment and request for nominees
4. FY 2021 Budget
5. FY 2019 DRAFT Annual Report
6. Department Organizational and Functional Chart

D. Old Business

1. FY 2021 Budget and FY 2019 Annual Report
2. ITB 19-ZB-134 "Vehicle purchase for Enforcement & Operations"
3. Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 regulation

E. Executive (Closed) Session

F. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
2. Offer Letter & Acceptance-Zoning Administrator

G. Miscellaneous

1. Other Matters
2. Announcements
3. Next Meeting

H. Adjournment

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
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Website: www.cpa.gov.mp



NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom by the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order 3. Adoption of Agenda
2. Roll Call 4. Adoption of Minutes (February 25, 2020)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. CORRESPONDENCES

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Financial Affairs Committee 3. Seaport Facilities Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee 4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VI. OLD BUSINESS - None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Supplemental Budget Request: SIA Commuter Terminal – A&E Services
2. Supplemental Budget Request & Approval: SIA Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 CM Amendment No. 2
3. Supplemental Budget Request & Approval: SIA Roof Typhoon Repairs Contract and CM Services
4. Leases:
 - a. SITA
 - b. United Cargo Facility
5. Employment Contract: Saipan Airport Manager
6. Employment Contract: Staff Attorney
7. Resolution No. 2020-04: Additional Austerity Measures

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation

IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

March 6, 2020

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. Regular Board Meeting – January 14, 2020
 - b. Special Board Meeting – February 7, 2020

2) Public Comments

1. Finance Committee –
 - a. Fund Status Report – February 2020
 - b. Austerity Measures

3) Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee –
 - a. Fund Status Report – February 2020
 - b. Austerity Measures
2. Request for Proposals (RFP)
 - a. Lifeguard, Security, Maintenance and Cleaning Services – MVA-RFP-20-2020
 - b. Garapan Trash Collection – MVA-RFP-20-2021
3. Contract Renewals
 - a. MVA-CT-18-2012 Integrity Communications
 - b. Off-Shore Offices Contract Renewal
 - 1. MVA-CT-16-2334 MVA China
 - 2. MVA-CT-16-2335 MVA Taiwan
 - 3. MVA-CT-16-2336 MVA Japan

4) New Business

1. FY2021 Budget Submission to the Office of Management and Budget

2. Request for Proposals (RFP)
 - a. Lifeguard, Security, Maintenance and Cleaning Services – MVA-RFP-20-2020
 - b. Garapan Trash Collection – MVA-RFP-20-2021

5) Old Business

1. Crisis Management Plan

6) Executive Session

7) Miscellaneous/Announcements

8) Adjournment

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Mixed emotions, stoic attitude over 4-day school week

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education's recent decision to cut the Public School System's school weeks to just four days is creating a mixed bag emotions among teachers. Some appear resigned to the impact of the weakened economy, while others are looking at the possible impact on students.

One such teacher at Koblerville Elementary School, who agreed to speak with *Saipan Tribune* on the condition of anonymity, said it's scary that school days have to be reduced but understands the

sacrifices PSS needs to make to make ends meet.

"This isn't the first austerity measure that PSS has taken. I wish it didn't have to happen because so many people's wellbeings are compromised. The families of PSS staff are being compromised but, at the end of the day, we need to either work with what we have and be content or, to be quite real, just leave," he said.

Personally, the teacher said the cut wouldn't affect his teaching since teachers are trained to make use with whatever time they have with their students.

"That is why half-day schools can teach students half the day and still achieve some goals. It's going to be harder but, again, considering the situation that we are in, we just need to work with it. I know other teachers' opinions differ but, at this point, there's nothing we can do," he said.

He added that he trusts that PSS has done all it can for teachers and is just thankful he has a job during this crisis.

"I trust that the board and key management have exhausted their options. I understand the difficult decisions that had to be made to keep us afloat. I'm thankful to still

have a job. Again, I know people are angry, people are upset but, honestly there's no money. That's the fact that we need to accept. There is no money to ask for. Everyone is going through austerity," he said.

Another elementary school teacher, who asked that his name be withheld, said that, although it's a realistic option, they still have to take care of their families and another pay cut would affect that.

"We all have a passion for teaching, yes. But we all have our personal life to take care of. One cannot expect teachers to continue to come with a smile on their faces. We

will try, but eventually the cut will take a toll on us and, let's be real, it'll start to show," he said.

He added that, with some schools still in double session, many students are falling behind and a shortened school week would just add to that.

"As teachers, we try to do everything we can within the day and, most of the time, it is impossible but there are days where it is, but we zoom through lessons, which is basically useless. So what more cutting one whole day? These students will feel it as they progress to the next grade level. The government is rob-

bing [them of] their learning time and their time to grow," she said.

Overall, he said, cutting school days would affect every student's learning and emotional behavior.

"Students might also think, 'If they cut school days, school must not be that important.' It's very sad. It'll not only interfere with students learning but their social and emotional behavior. Most students come to school as a getaway from home," he said.

The four-day school week is set to begin in April 1 as part of PSS' proposed austerity measures.

Int'l Women's Day features diversity of CNMI community

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Woman's Affairs Office, in collaboration with CNMI Women's Association, brought women from the many ethnicities in the CNMI together at the Pedro P. Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe last Saturday as part of the celebration of International Women's Day.

The celebration was composed of three events on the same day: The first was the recognition of 12 inspiring women and their success stories, as presented by first lady Dianne Torres and Wella Palacios. The second event consisted of all women from different cultures and ethnicities coming together to share their culture, food cuisines, and entertainment at the multi-purpose center. The third event was a roadside waving, composed of all the women who attended Saturday's event.

According to WAO's Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro, the event, which featured a variety of foods that were unique, tasty, and homemade, drew more people than expected. There were different booths representing various ethnicities in the CNMI, including one that featured the Japan Consulate and another featuring the Korean community.

"To all women, especially



Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro of the Women's Affairs Office, second from right, front row, pose with attendees of the International Women's Day at the International Women's Day at the Pedro P. Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe last Saturday.

JUSTINE NAUTA

mothers, you are the role model to your daughters," said Camacho-Ogumoro. "You are also an inspiration to your little sisters [and nieces]. Keep inspiring them

to be a positive role model."

Camacho-Ogumoro added that all women should always take care of each other and if you see something wrong, say something or tell an adult.

Annamae Adaza, community relations coordinator of WAO, said that having the event coordinated was a tiring process, but it was all worth it in end.

"If your heart and your pas-

sion is there, you can do anything," she said. "It may be time-consuming but to do the work and help out, it'll be really rewarding," she said.

The three major sponsors

of the event were 2020 Census, Bridge Capital LLC, and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., in addition to other sponsors, donors, and supporters.

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INSTALLMENT AVAILABLE

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Cancer survivors, caregivers support group meeting**

All people facing cancer, their family members, and care-

givers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support group meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2020, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest

speaker is Ronald D. Sablan, director of the Medical Referral Services. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarinas@gmail.com. (PR)

Writer's movement meeting on Saturday

Marianas Writers' Movement will meet on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at 1:30pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The meeting is open to the public and anyone interested 13 years and older may join. (PR)

4.5M quake hits Guam

At 12:10pm, on March 5, 2020, a report of a 4.5 magnitude earthquake occurred

102 kilometers west of Merizo Village in Guam. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue a tsunami warning or advisory. For more information, contact the EOC State Warning Point at (670)237-8000. (PR)

Kagman schools' PTSA meeting tomorrow

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman Unified Schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting tomorrow, March 10, 2020, at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meet-

ing. Child care will be provided. Call any of the three schools at 237.3150 (KagES), 237.3165 (COVMS), or 237.3196 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

Ukulele class at JKPL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library registration for Beginner and Intermediate Ukulele Class is ongoing. This is open to children ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class sessions is \$50. Ukulele classes are held at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee and children. Session is set to begin on March 6, 2020. Ukulele class is every Friday at 4:30pm to 5:30pm.

The JKPL ukulele class is based on "first come, first paid." Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended). Parents/guardians must sign a liability waiver form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures. For questions regarding ukulele class, call Celina Foreman or Caitlyn Crisostomo at 235-7315/7322 during regular library hours. Class dates are subject to change, unless otherwise specified. (PR)

Wanted: Juan S. Ada

Juan Sablan Ada remains wanted by authorities pursuant to an arrest warrant issued by the Superior Court for the charges of illegal possession and trafficking of controlled substance with a cash bail set at \$100,000. If Ada is sighted, do no approach. Call 911 immediately, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. (PR)

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Global Corporation Phoenix Garden A

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Global Corporation proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 36 in Garapan Village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: March 25, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 24, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Global Corporation dba Phoenix Garden C

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Global Corporation proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 43 in Garapan Village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: March 25, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 24, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Shalom Church

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Shalom Church proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Church establishment. This use is classified as "Church or Place of Worship" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. TR. 21859-3-1 in Fina Sisu Village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: March 25, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 24, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmh.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

02/10/20

Notice for Public Comment**Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds**

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient: Budget:	Approved Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Proposed IDIS Funded Amount:	Current
2019/701	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Basketball Court	Office of the Mayor of Tinian	\$86,250.00	(\$86,250.00)	\$0.00	\$86,250.00
2019/705	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Rota Youth Center	CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs	\$200,000.00	(\$200,000.00)	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
2019/706	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof	CNMI Office of Grants Management	\$284,910.80	(\$284,910.80)	\$0.00	\$284,910.80
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			(\$571,160.80)		
NEW	CDBG	Purchase and Installation of Modular/Pre-fabricated Units for Transitional Housing (Saipan)	Northern Marianas Housing Corporation	\$0.00	\$571,160.80	\$571,160.80	\$0.00
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			\$571,160.80		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over \$50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before March 11, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Saba Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saba Corporation proposes to occupy a pre-existing structure for its Car Wash establishment. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No 001 I 41 in San Antonio village. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: March 25, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 24, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

Water service interruption tomorrow

There will be a scheduled water service interruption tomorrow, March 10, 2020, from 8am to 12pm, affecting residents living near the Capital Hill water tank and along Mt. Tapochao Road and adjacent street to Coral Island Condominium. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. custom-

ers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The interruption will allow Tropex Garden, CUC's contractor for the Koa Lane Waterline Extension project, to connect a new 6-inch distribution main to the existing

6-inch main. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Mangloña appeals to Torres to extend antivirus measures to Rota and Tinian

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the CNMI government putting in place measures designed to prevent the entry of the COVID-19 coronavirus, Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota) is appealing to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to expand the preventative measures to both Rota and Tinian.

Mangloña, who is the Rota delegation chairman, specifically asked the Commonwealth Ports Authority to equip the Rota International Airport with a thermal scanner to screen incoming flights from Guam," Mangloña said in a letter Thursday.

CPA is in the process of buying a thermal body scanner that would detect body temperature of passengers arriving at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Mangloña also requested for the Office of the Governor, or the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., to remove the Rota Roundhouse from a list of possible quarantine facility on Rota and replace it instead with a more secure location.

"The Rota Roundhouse is an open-air facility that is currently ill-equipped to handle quarantine operations or any operation requiring a sanitary

environment," the senator explained.

CHCC has identified facilities in the CNMI that would be used to house infected individuals in case the hospital's quarantine is exceeded, should COVID-19 enter the islands.

The senator also asked the governor to consider extending the provision of an emergency protocol training to emergency response staff on Rota and Tinian.

"It is vital to train emergency response staff from [Rota and Tinian], especially considering their limited capabilities at critical facilities. Should training become available, I request that this training be extended to emergency response staff on Rota and Tinian," he said.

Mangloña also asked Torres to clarify whether the federal government will provide the CNMI with diagnostic tests and other anti-COVID-19 tools.

Like Saipan, Rota receives direct flights from Guam.

"To shield the people of Rota from exposure to CO-

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-IFB-20-001

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of approximately 20,000,000 US gallons annually of **No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra-low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" **ASTM D975-14**.

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The Bid Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-20-001, Supply and Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) April 9, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC-Power Engineer, Venugopal Prabhakar via email address venu.pabrahakar@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-012

SR-2 SEWER LIFT STATION REHABILITATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of construction of a new sewer lift station to replace the existing SR-2 sewer lift station; installation of new gravity sewer mains, manhole, force main from the new lift station to the nearest existing sewer force main, retaining wall, guard rail, installation of Owner-Furnished Contractor-Installed (OFCI) submersible duplex pump and controller; construction of a new generator building and appurtenances; demolition of the entire existing generator buildings, accessories, appurtenances and existing minor structures. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-20-012, SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) March 10, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-014

LEASE OF OFFICE AND OPERATIONS SUPPORT FACILITY FOR CUC ROTA ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered. For registration inquiries, please email Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-20-014, Lease of Office and Operations support facility for CUC Rota Administration and Operation.**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23, 2020** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 7, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Director via email address william.gilmore@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 47

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.



How do you define 'class'?

Unlike the character of Daisy Buchanan in "The Great Gatsby," my voice is not full of money. My voice is full of traffic.

But it's also full of laughter, wisecracks and emotion.

I have no class. Everybody who knows me would agree, the only difference being that some apologize, sotto voce, on my behalf while others yell it from the rooftops in delight.

Class is like sexual modesty: Only somebody without it can talk about it in public. That's why I'm your girl.

I learned how class was traditionally defined by watching old movies and reading books. I went to an Ivy League school on a scholarship and went to Cambridge University on a fellowship. All of this means I can do a terrific imitation of mid-Atlantic accent and speak fluently in what used to be referred to as Received Standard English. But I can only do it for a couple of minutes because after that I expect Henry Higgins to announce, "By George, I think she's got it!"

The voice and accent are important indicators of class, I discovered when I got to college, because nobody is supposed to recognize where you came from.

You aren't meant to have come from anywhere once you've arrived. You must give the impression that you have always been. Everything about you must appear "comme il faut," which translates, more or less, into "this is how it's done." Your family and their status must appear to have been awarded by destiny and not to have wrested or stolen from the sweat of others or from the Earth itself.

It would be a mistake to confuse class with cash. Those who inherited influence, power and money appear to have been awarded their position in life. The rest of us are still striving to make it.

Apparently, the only thing worse than not being born with class is trying to get some. That's because trying to do anything is frowned upon by those in positions of real privilege, since it involves expending effort, displaying ambition and accepting the possibility of failure. This trifecta, my dear, can make one seem boisterous, obstreperous and dangerous. Uppity is tacky, tacky is to be avoided at all costs, and what can be avoided is rendered invisible. Terribly convenient, when you think about it.

So let's think about it: How do you define "class"?

The ground rules are that we're not simply talking about where you've been plopped down economically. Those who come with property, gold and stock options trailing

See HOW on Next Page



Without universal health care, coronavirus puts us all at risk

By SARA R. COLLINS and DAVID BLUMENTHAL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The incipient spread of the coronavirus in the United States has laid bare the precarious nature of a health system in which millions of people lack health insurance. The way to avoid rapid spread of the virus is to make sure that people who need access to care get it as soon as possible. But in this country, 30 million people are uninsured and 44 million more are underinsured because they can barely afford to pay the high deductibles and out-of-pocket costs in their plans.

With millions of Americans unable to afford to see a doctor if they become ill with COVID-19, what should we do? As a first step, public health officials should get out the message that anyone who needs care should seek it. We can't run the risk of having individuals who might be infected go untested and untreated. People should be assured that when they feel ill they can turn to the health care system and be confident that they won't be saddled with a ruinous bill.

Yet in an ominous moment, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar said recently that he couldn't promise that a coronavirus vaccine would be affordable to all when it becomes available. He later said the government would try to make vaccines affordable. What's needed is for federal, state and local public officials to offer strong assurances to the public that vaccines would be offered free of charge or nearly so. The Senate on Friday passed a \$8.3-billion emergency spending bill approved by the House on Wednesday that includes about \$300 million aimed at making the vaccines more affordable, but more funding may be needed to ensure broad access.

We should also move quickly to make Medicaid coverage available to more people. The Trump administration has sought to limit coverage and federal support for Medicaid. Now in the face of this potential epidemic, it needs to reverse that approach. While the administration is considering using a national disaster program to pay hospitals that treat uninsured patients infected with coronavirus, it also needs to make sure people have access to screening for the virus and primary care before their conditions become acute.

Medicaid is built to deal with broad-scale public health crises. For example, when lead-contaminated water threatened the health of the residents of Flint, Mich., in 2016, the federal

government provided funding to the state to expand Medicaid for pregnant women and children. In New York City, after the 9/11 attacks, local, state and federal officials developed the Disaster Relief Medicaid plan that suspended federal Medicaid enrollment requirements to enable low-income New Yorkers to enroll quickly. After Hurricane Katrina, the federal government allowed states to temporarily cover evacuees from states hit hard by Katrina in their Medicaid programs, with the federal government picking up the tab.

The Trump administration could demonstrate similar leadership on coronavirus. It could allow states to greatly simplify Medicaid enrollment by creating a one-page application form and keeping people continuously enrolled without the need for constant recertification.

The administration could also allow states to temporarily increase Medicaid eligibility higher up the income scale in all states beyond their current income limits. Thirty-six states and the District of Columbia have expanded their Medicaid programs under the Affordable Care Act to cover people with incomes of up to 138% of the poverty level. But 14 states have not, leaving more than 2 million people uninsured. Another option is for Congress to pass legislation to fully fund expanded Medicaid coverage for these states at least temporarily to encourage their participation.

The United States has long struggled with the notion of shared risk when it comes to health coverage. But insurance markets and health systems work best when everyone is included. That is why all industrialized countries have universal coverage and why most of them consistently outperform the U.S. on most measures of health care access, affordability, health outcomes and overall costs.

The particulars of a viral epidemic—a risk shared by us all—shows we have a shared responsibility to confront it together to protect ourselves, our neighbors and strangers with whom we share the world. In dealing with a public health crisis, we can't separate individual interests from those of the community. Likewise, health insurance coverage has to cover everyone if we want a system that works effectively and efficiently. The coronavirus, whether it becomes a full-blown epidemic or not, demonstrates that the health system cannot leave anyone out.

Sara R. Collins is vice president for health care coverage and access at the Commonwealth Fund. David Blumenthal is president of the Commonwealth Fund.

Wills: 7 bequest mistakes

Almost everyone should have a will or a revocable living trust that says what happens to their stuff when they die. But not all documents are equal. A thoughtful, well-drafted plan can ensure that your goals are met with a minimum of fuss for your loved ones. But a poorly written estate plan can bury landmines for years or decades, mines waiting to explode when you pass away. Below are seven common mistakes to avoid in your will.

Mistake 1: Being too specific when flexibility is necessary

Let's say you own a 2020 Toyota Tacoma, and you want your son, Bob, to have it when you pass away. So your will says something like: I bequeath my 2020 Toyota Tacoma to Bob. What happens if you sell the Tacoma but never update your will? Bob gets nothing.

What about your house? What if you lived at 123 Plumeria Drive when you made your will but sold it so that you could move across the road to 124 Plumeria Drive? Then a bequest saying that you leave 123 Plumeria Drive to Bob would fail because you no longer own it.

How about bank accounts? What if you bequeathed your Bank of Saipan account to Bob and then Bank of Saipan merged with the Bank of Hawaii? Bob may be out of luck because the account doesn't match your will precisely.

And the same for stock certificates: If you bequest 10 shares of ABC, Inc.'s stock and then it merges into another company, thus changing its name to XYZ Corp., Bob may be out of luck again for the same reason—it doesn't match your will precisely.

In short, be careful about getting too specific. The language you use should have some wiggle room for the natural ebb and flow of life because changes will happen. It's one of the few guarantees in life.

Mistake 2: Giving away property without talking about the mortgage

Now let's assume you own property encumbered by a mortgage. When you bequeath the property to Bob, did you intend for him to pay for the mortgage? Or did you want your estate to pay off the mortgage? If your will doesn't say, then your other heirs will likely object to the estate paying off the mortgage. After all, those payments dilute how much the rest of the heirs will receive. To prevent the fight, say who is responsible for the mortgage—the estate or the person receiving the property.

Mistake 3: Giving away a house without saying who gets the contents

Let's say the will gifts the house to Bob but is silent on the stuff inside the house. Who gets the contents of the home? Not clear. Bob may get everything. Or he might get an empty house without car-

SENATOR

From Page 10

behind them do not necessarily have class. One of my favorite writers, Dorothy Parker, pointed out that "If you want to know what God thinks about money, just look at the people He gave it to." She did not mean that as a compliment.

If your primary accomplishment is being able to trace your lineage back to the Norman Conquest, you should be reminded that every human being comes from a long line of ancestors. Not only human beings, either: my cat comes from a rather impressively long line of other cats. She's not a snob about it.

The fact that a person's family came to America in 1620 makes her no more impressive than somebody whose family came to America at 2:15 p.m. yesterday, and it almost certainly makes her stories less interesting.

If class isn't being surrounded by trappings of privilege and granted access to the secret societies of networks, connections and favors secured by membership to American _ or any other _ aristocracy, what behaviors bestow a person with "class"?

Class is accepting responsibility _ because your decisions have been thoughtful, careful and considerate. Class is integrity because the various parts of your life fit together in a pattern that you've designed, and there's no need to pretend you're something you're not.

You don't switch out personalities, affects or manners depending on the circumstances. You make the ease, the dignity and the self-respect of those around you your first concern. You clean up after yourself, literally and metaphorically, understanding that if you don't do it, somebody else will be left with your mess.

Class doesn't whine, doesn't gossip, doesn't sneer and never looks down. Class looks you in the eye and sees you and acknowledges you.

In a house of true class, you are always welcome. Even if your voice sounds like traffic.

pets, blinds, appliances, or furniture. It's much better to expressly state who gets the contents of the house—Bob or someone else.

Mistake 4: Giving someone a percentage of the estate's value

Sometimes people give a percentage of their estate to someone. Often, it will be a grandparent who wants to give a small percentage to a grandkid. Why is that a bad idea? Because determining the total value of an estate is hard and inexact. And, so, reasonable differences over an appraisal can flash into heated arguments.

If you want to leave a percentage, what should you do instead? Leave a percentage of something easy to determine like a bank or retirement account. Figuring out 2% of a bank account is much easier than figuring out 2% of your estate (which can include cars, collectibles, real estate, and bank accounts).

Mistake 5: Leaving a large, fixed amount to younger heirs

This situation crops up most where grandparents want to leave a fixed amount for their grandkids' education. For example, a grandparent leaves \$50,000 each to three grandkids. The idea is great. But what happens, for instance, if the stock market plummets, sinking your estate's value with it? Not only is there not enough money for the grandkids' education funds, your kids get nothing. In most cases, that is not what a well-meaning grandparent intended. So, be wary of making large, specific bequests.

Mistake 6: Leaving significant assets directly to minors

Leaving big amounts of money directly to minors is bad on several fronts. For one, they are seldom ready to handle a surprise windfall. For another, their inheritance will be supervised by the legal system until they become an adult. So, they can look forward to going in and out of guardianship proceedings for the rest of their youth. I don't recommend it.

T.O.A.S.T.: Tender Old Age Sonnet Tales

Undercarriage of an Unhappy Marriage

"Cruel Man! I am not blind, your infidelity I find; Your want of Love, my Ruin shows, My broken Heart, your broken Vows."

—Elizabeth Thomas (1675 - 1731)

Ain't that the living truth,
ain't that the loving proof
paint it on heaven's roof,
ain't that the folly of youth
you experience pleasure at my pain
and more pleasure when you read
of my love lost and your gain
though my love you sometimes need
our tumultuous turmoil may in time obtain
unlike Adam and Eve there is no original sin
but ultimately love that soothes and entertains
us as a couple, a sweet place to begin
still married at least, our sexuality buried
no more wanton, no more beauty or beast.

A Slight Touch of Pain

"If this be love... My pleasures horror. Music tragic notes. Tears in mine eyes and sorrow in my heart."

—Samuel Daniel (1562 - 1619)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A history lesson

Once again local, regional, national and international news reports are giving history buffs in the Marianas some excellent meat to chew on.

Coronavirus has hit front pages around the world, giving educators worldwide a great subject for bulletin boards. Because we live so close to ground zero, the Mariana Islands are feeling the immediate impact of what some believe could be a catastrophic event. The governments of Guam and the CNMI are implementing drastic spending cutbacks. Some businesses are going broke. People put out of work are moving to more stable ground, reducing our economic base. Hopefully, the coronavirus epidemic is only temporary and we will survive it with little pain, as with Ebola, Asian bird flu, SARS, etc. However, the issue does remain in doubt and is therefore worthy of in-depth study, so that it will be properly recorded when it becomes part of our past.

The critical factor is our strategic location in the Western Pacific,

FINE PRINT

By JORDAN SUNDELL

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!

A better choice is to leave assets to minors through a trust. This approach allows you to appoint someone responsible who can then access your kid's inheritance and use it on their behalf without parading in and out of court for each major decision.

Mistake 7: Leaving assets to people receiving government benefits

Many government benefits are means-tested. In other words, people only receive them if they have limited assets. And that threshold can be very small. So, it's relatively easy for an unexpected inheritance to knock a person out of their government benefits until they've spent the inheritance and re-filed for benefits. In many cases, they would have been better off never receiving any inheritance.

To avoid these mistakes, and others, have an experienced estate-planning attorney write your will.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE' BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

A slight touch of sadistic pain she had
in her frequent bad moods yet very wise
her intuition sometimes good sometimes bad
often caught me unawares and by surprise
her love often took some wrong turns
she would smile and laugh but somehow
would forget how her negativity burns
and I slowly healing can not forget it now
hurtful hateful words close loves door
between her and me a brain strain pain
that has been shut many times before
Oh that we could calmly work it out
and lose the pettiness, pain, and pout.

not just militarily but also economically. The Marianas are the gateway between the Western world and Asia, both coming and going. Before coronavirus, businessmen, political leaders, scientists, medical consultants, etc., traveled to China daily. Not now. Same-same vice versa. How it affecting business and political dialogues?

Consider what coronavirus is costing the worldwide travel industry. How many billions are being lost by hotel operations in Los Vegas, Dubai, Bombay and Sydney every day, not to mention Trump Towers! No mas Chinese guests.

How many planes have been grounded internationally? Planes sitting on a tarmac don't burn aviation gas. How much is it costing the oil industry, America, Iran, Venezuela? Are the oil-producing nations cutting back on production? Will that affect the cost of our already grossly high gasoline prices?

How many people are losing jobs worldwide?

This means that not just the CNMI and Guam, but also the international powers want the coronavirus event resolved as quickly as possible. And, that is good for us.

Don Farrell

Marpo Heights, Tinian

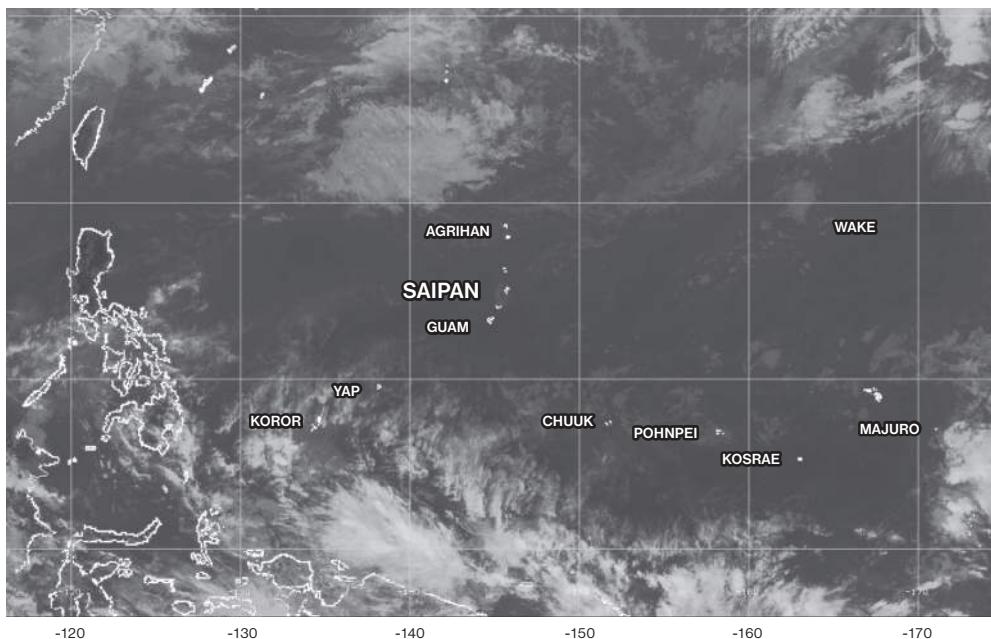
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.			

88° 76° 88° 76° 88° 76° 88° 76° 88° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry weather pattern will prevail across the Marianas through the forecast. Partly cloudy skies and isolated showers at best will prevail through the coming week. The 500mb relative humidity will remain below 50 percent through the forecast and this will keep shower activity to a minimum. To illustrate the dryness, the accumulated rainfall through the forecast will be less than a quarter of an inch.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	85°	/	76°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85°	/	79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86°	/	81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Cloudy	72°	/	61°
Beijing	Sunny	59°	/	34°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75°	/	64°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	77°	/	68°
London	Showers	52°	/	50°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	70°	/	55°
Manila	Sunny	93°	/	79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66°	/	55°
Miami	Windy	74°	/	70°
New York	Mostly Sunny	64°	/	49°
Osaka	Rain	70°	/	52°
Paris	Showers	52°	/	46°
Busan	Rain	59°	/	39°
Rome	Showers	59°	/	43°
Salem	Sunny	60°	/	35°
San Francisco	Showers	59°	/	47°
Seoul	Rain	50°	/	34°
Tokyo	Rain	64°	/	59°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	71°	/	53°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	-	-0.40
8:00 AM	LOW TIDE	-	1.92
1:41 PM	HIGH TIDE	-	0.79
7:05 PM	LOW TIDE	-	2.01

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:27 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:00 AM	6:02 PM
Tuesday	-	6:49 AM	7:04 PM
Wednesday	-	7:37 AM	8:05 PM
Thursday	-	8:23 AM	9:05 PM
Friday	-	9:10 AM	10:05 PM

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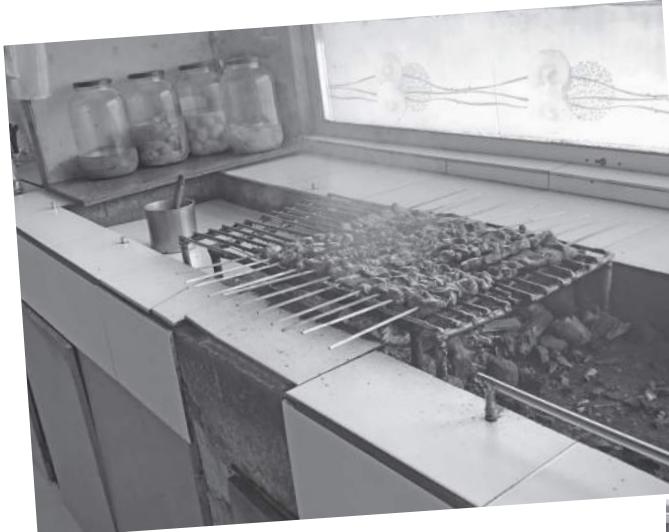
SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 9:15am 9:55am Daily				UA174 7:30am 8:11am Daily			
UA156 6:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6				UA112 4:45pm 5:26pm 2, 4, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816 4:35pm 7:30pm 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7				SKY811 10:15am 3:00pm Daily			
SKY816 5:05pm 8:00pm 6							
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:20am 6:30am Daily				7C3452 9:35pm 2:30am+1 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
7C3452 10:05pm 2:30am+1 3							
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:05am 6:05am Daily				OZ6233 7:30am 12:50pm 2, 4, 6			
OZ626 2:10am 6:05am 1				OZ623 8:10am 1:40pm 1, 3, 5, 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 5, 6, 7				7C3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily			
OZ626 3:35am 7:20am 4				TW309 11:10am 4:40pm Daily			
7C3403 4:35am 8:35am Daily				OZ625 7:30pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ6243 3:10pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6				TW307 7:45pm 1:05am+1 Daily			
OZ624 3:30pm 7:20pm 1, 3, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 4, 5, 6			
7C3401 4:30pm 8:25pm Daily				OZ625 9:05pm 2:25am+1 3			
TW310 5:40pm 10:15pm Daily				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701 2:10am 10:35am 1 via ICN				UA189/174 12:40am 8:11am+1 3, 6 via GUM			
OZ626/701 2:50am 10:35am 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				OZ702/625 12:05pm 1:00am+1 7 via			

Business



Sticks of pork barbecue are grilled to perfection.

MARK RABAGO

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A barbecue stand known for its distinct sweet and tangy marinade of a Filipino classic has changed its name.

Owner Reynaldo P. Joson Jr. said they recently rechristened Lyn's BBQ across Martha's Store in Garapan to Vi-Lyn's BBQ to finally correct an oversight that happened five years ago when he took over the business.

"Actually the name in our

business license is Vi-Lyn's. The former owner created a signboard that only said 'Lyn's' BBQ because it's easy to say and memorize," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The new name of the barbecue stand also helps distinguish Vi-Lyn's BBQ from Lyn's BBQ in Susupe.

Joson said if he remembers right he was told the owner of the Susupe barbecue stand and its counterpart in Garapan are related, which explains the use of the same name.



MARK RABAGO
Vi-Lyn's BBQ is located across Martha's Store in Garapan.

BBQ stand rechristened as Vi-Lyn's BBQ

Virus cases top 100,000 in 90 countries as markets take dive

PARIS (AP)—Crossing more borders, the new coronavirus hit a milestone, infecting more than 100,000 people worldwide as it wove itself deeper into the daily lives of millions, infecting the powerful, the unprotected poor and vast masses in between.

The virus, which has killed more than 3,400 people and emerged in more than 90 countries, edged into more U.S. states on Friday and even breached the halls of the Vatican. It forced mosques in Iran and beyond to halt weekly Muslim prayers, blocked pilgrims from Jesus' birthplace in Bethlehem and upended Japan's plans for the Olympic torch parade.

As financial markets dived again, repercussions from the virus also rattled livelihoods in the real economy.

"Who is going to feed their families?" asked Elias al-Arja, head of a hotel owners' union in Bethlehem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where tourists have been banned and the storied Church of the Nativity was shuttered.

At the White House, President Donald Trump signed a \$8.3 billion bill to fight the coronavirus a day after Italy said it would double its own spending to 7.5 billion euros

(\$8.5 billion).

In Geneva, the U.N. health agency said it had received applications for 40 possible virus tests, had 20 vaccine candidates in development and reported that numerous clinical trials of experimental drugs for the new coronavirus were under way.

"We're all in this together. We all have a role to play," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, chief of the World Health Organization, urging more global cooperation from the business world and solidarity with the poorest.

The news wasn't all bad: more than half of those who contracted the virus have now recovered. It's retreating in China, where it first emerged, and in nearby South Korea.

China on Saturday morning reported just 99 new cases, the first time it has had only a double digit increase since Jan. 20. It also reported another 28 deaths. Overall, China now counts 22,177 patients currently in treatment, while it has released 55,404. South Korea on Saturday morning reported 174 new cases.

The virus continued popping up in new places, however, with countries like Colombia and Togo reporting their first confirmed cases.

Regardless of the name, Vi-Lyn's BBQ has long been a favorite of residents of Garapan and its surrounding villages who are always looking for a quick snack or even sometimes a viand to pair with rice for lunch or dinner.

"So far so good and we're always thankful for the patronage and the business as well," said Joson.

What distinguishes Vi-Lyn's BBQ apart from other barbecue stands on Saipan is

its marinade.

Joson said their marinade is a well-kept secret and it also helps that their cooks literally douse the meat with the sweet and tangy sauce even after perfectly grilling them.

"Our marinade is made with a lot of heart and of course people who work with us are always happy."

Aside from the usual pork and chicken barbecue skewers, Vi-Lyn's BBQ has also become famous for its

isaw or beef intestine and lumpiang shanghai (Filipino spring rolls).

Other items on Vi-Lyn's BBQ's takeout-only menu are pork ears, chicken feet, hot-dog, corn on the cob, hot sausage, tilapia, reef fish, squid, fried chicken, spicy chicken wings, vegetable lumpia, *kwek-kwek*, tempura, and regular and flavored French fries.

It also offers cold drinks like lemonade and pearl shake. At \$1 a stick of pork or

chicken barbecue, Vi-Lyn's BBQ and other barbecue stalls on island offer island residents a way to maximize their budget, especially during these hard economic times.

"People nowadays instead of cooking, they just buy food from us because they're either too busy to cook or it's affordable to buy barbecue," said Joson.

Vi-Lyn's BBQ is open Monday-Sunday from 9am to 9pm. To place your orders, call 233-38-39 or 285-7365.

China trade slumps as anti-virus controls close factories

BEIJING (AP)—China's exports fell by double digits in January and February as anti-virus controls closed factories, while imports sank by a small margin.

Exports tumbled 17.2% from a year earlier to \$292.4 billion, a sharp reverse from December's 7.8% rise, customs data showed Saturday. Imports declined 4% to \$299.5 billion, down from the previous month's 16.3% gain.

Trade was poised for a boost after Beijing and Washington removed punitive tariffs on some of each other's goods in a trade truce signed in January.

But that was offset by Chinese anti-virus controls that shut down much of the world's second-largest economy in late January.

Exports to the United States plunged 27.7% in January and February to \$43 billion, worsening from December's 12.5% decline. Imports of American goods crept up 2.5% to \$17.6

billion, but China still recorded a \$25.4 billion trade surplus with the United States.

China's global trade balance fell to a \$7.1 billion deficit for the first two months of the year.

Manufacturers that make the world's smartphones, toys and other consumer goods are reopening but say the pace will be dictated by how quickly supply chains start functioning again. Forecasters say industries are unlikely to be back to normal production before at least April.

Until the virus outbreak, Chinese trade had been unexpectedly resilient despite Beijing's tariff war with President Donald Trump over its technology ambitions and trade surplus. Last year's exports rose 0.5% over 2018.

Beijing told exporters to pursue other markets in Asia, Europe and Africa after Trump slapped punitive duties on their goods starting in 2018. China retaliated by raising tar-

iffs on American soybeans and other goods.

Some of those penalties were rolled back after the two sides signed a "Phase 1" agreement in January. Washington canceled additional planned tariff hikes and Beijing promised to buy more American farm exports.

Economists warn the truce fails to address contentious U.S.-Chinese disputes that might take years to resolve.

China's customs agency began reporting January and February trade figures together this year to screen out the impact of the Lunar New Year holiday, which comes at different times each year during the two-month period.

Factories traditionally usually shut down for two weeks or longer while their employees visit their hometowns.

Imports usually surge after the holiday as factories restock. But this year's rebound was postponed after the holi-

day was extended by at least one week—more in some places—to keep factories and offices closed as authorities tried to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Chinese leaders are trying to limit economic damage by ordering local officials in areas deemed at low disease risk to help factories reopen. But many say they have trouble getting raw materials and employees because controls on travel still are in place in many areas.

The Chinese shutdown sent shockwaves through Asian economies that supply components and raw materials to Chinese factories that assemble the world's smartphones, toys, home appliances and other consumer goods.

Shopping malls, restaurants and other retail businesses also were closed. Demand for online grocery vendors surged but sales of other goods slumped.

Nation

Florida: 2 dead in the state who tested positive for virus

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Two people who tested positive for the new coronavirus have died in Florida, marking the first deaths on the East Coast attributed to the outbreak in the U.S., health officials said Friday.

Helen Aguirre Ferre, a spokeswoman for Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, confirmed the deaths on Twitter, writing the individuals were in their 70s and had traveled overseas. She did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Saturday.

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—President Donald Trump says he isn't concerned "at all" about the coronavirus getting closer to the White House after the nation's capital reported its first case Saturday.

Maryland officials warned Saturday that a person who attended the recent Conservative Political Action Conference in the suburb of Oxon Hill had tested positive for the virus. Both Trump and Vice President Mike Pence spoke at the conference. The White House said Saturday there was no indication that either had met or were in "close proximity" to the infected attendee.

Asked if he was concerned about the virus getting closer, Trump said: "No, I'm not concerned at all. No, I'm not. We've done a great job."

When asked whether his thousand person campaign rallies would continue in



Esther Ghanan, of Tampa, a retired registered nurse, prays for those who are affected by the coronavirus during Mass at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Tampa, Fla., Friday, March 6, 2020. AP

light of the CPAC case, the president replied, "We'll have tremendous rallies." Trump held his most recent campaign rally last Monday in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The announcement raises the U.S. death toll from the novel coronavirus strain to 16, including 13 in the state of Washington and one in California.

One of the Florida deaths

was that of a man with underlying health issues in Santa Rosa County in Florida's Panhandle, according to the statement. DeSantis said Saturday that the man had traveled internationally, potentially to Egypt or Israel.

The health department added that the second death was that of an elderly person in Lee County, in the Fort Myers area.

One of the new cases was only confirmed after the per-

son had died, according to the statement. A 65-year-old man and a 75-year-old man also tested positive Friday, both in Broward County, home to Fort Lauderdale. The state's health department said both men have been isolated until public health officials clear them.

Two more cases were confirmed Saturday. The governor said a female in her 50s who had traveled internation-

ally also tested positive in Charlotte County. Earlier in the day, the Florida Department of Health tweeted another case was confirmed in Lee County, adding the individual was isolated and being appropriately cared for, but did not release the patient's age, gender or whether they may have recently traveled.

DeSantis met with Vice President Mike Pence, Sens.

Sanders, Biden up attacks as head-to-head race takes shape

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP)—The Democratic presidential primary is down to two major candidates, and it shows.

Former Vice President Joe Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders are spending their first weekend as their party's last top White House contenders increasingly taking aim at one another. Each wants to show he's the best choice before six more states—Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota and Washington—vote on Tuesday.

It reflects the new contours of a race that once featured 20-plus Democrats. An increasingly bitter matchup could endure for months as Biden and Sanders compete for the right to face President Donald Trump in November.

"We have a two-person race," Sanders said Saturday in Dearborn, a Detroit suburb with one of the nation's largest Arab American populations. "And all over this country, people are asking themselves which candidate can best de-

feat Trump. I have zero doubt in my mind that, together, we are the campaign that can beat Trump."

Campaigning in St. Louis, Biden took a number of veiled swipes at Sanders, even as he called on Democrats to rise above Trump's division.

He told the crowd that if they wanted to nominate a "lifelong" and "proud" Democrat, they should pick him. Sanders has run for office as an Independent and identifies himself as a democratic socialist.

"If you want a nominee who'll bring the party together, who will run on a positive progressive vision for the future, not turn this primary into a campaign of negative attacks—because that will only reelect Donald Trump if we go that route—if you want that, join us," Biden said.

Winning, he added, "means uniting America, not sowing more division and anger."

The former vice president also knocked Sanders' weeks

Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, and heads of the cruise line industry to discuss the effect of the coronavirus. The governor stressed the risk to the elderly, especially those with underlying health conditions, urging them to "stay at home if you need to. Avoid large crowds."

He also directed the Florida Division of Emergency Management to activate at the next level to provide additional support and critical resources to the state and county health departments.

Officials had previously announced that five Florida residents who had been traveling in China have also been quarantined elsewhere after testing positive for the virus.

Officials said the risk to those in the state remains low as most cases have concentrated in Washington state and California, where a cruise ship is being held off the coast after a passenger on a previous trip died and others became infected.

But at least in Miami, city officials canceled two large music festivals over fears that crowded events could spread the new virus more widely. It is not clear whether state officials will implement any other drastic measures ahead of Florida's busy Spring Break season later this month.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis asked state lawmakers Friday for \$25 million for health officials to use immediately in the state's response to coronavirus.

Trump's challenge: keeping his act fresh in reelection year

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Donald Trump show has a consistent script. Same villains. Same nicknames. Same grievances. Same hero: himself.

At raucous rallies held mostly in states that are friendly to him, the president tells audiences that he could be presidential, even Lincoln-esque, if he wanted to. But that, he says, would be boring.

"It's easy to be presidential but only have about three people in front of me," Trump said at a recent rally, before breaking into a monotone imitation of a droning politician. "Doing this takes far more talent than doing that. Doing that is very easy. This is not easy."

As he seeks reelection with little variance from the themes that brought him to power four years ago, a central challenge will be to keep those audiences satisfied and to make sure, like a great entertainer, that the act isn't getting stale.

The president retains robust approval ratings among Republicans but even that fidelity will be tested as he asks voters for another four years essentially offering them not new promises but more of the same.

Trump's campaign remains highly confident it will not only retain those who backed the president in 2016, but will also expand the electorate by turning out people who did not vote four years ago, in addition to peeling off some African American and Latino males.

At a rally last week in South Carolina, nearly 29% of those who registered for tickets didn't vote in the 2016 election, according to Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale.

But there are other metrics that don't look quite as hopeful.

Trump's Twitter following has grown to more than 73 million, up from 25 million at

the start of his presidency. But the public's engagement with the president on his favorite social media platform has diminished since his inauguration more than three years ago.

Trump's tweets drew an average of 5.37 likes per 1,000 followers at the start of his presidency and were down to 1.29 in February, according to an analysis by Factbase, a data analytics company that analyzes spoken and written remarks by elected officials. By comparison, top Democratic presidential contenders Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders—both of whom have a fraction of Trump's Twitter following—tallied 2.13 and 2.73 likes per 1,000 followers respectively last month.

The falling engagement numbers come as Trump, who likes to use social media as a tool to reach Americans without the contextualizing of the mainstream media, is relying on Twitter more than ever.

Sanders campaign manager Faiz Shakir issued a tweet noting Biden's short speaking time and highlighting the fact that Sanders had three campaign events on his schedule, "each speaking engagement extending for close to an hour."

Asia

4 dead in collapse of Chinese hotel used for virus control

BEIJING (AP)—At least four people were killed in the collapse of hotel in southeastern China that was being used for medical observation of people who had arrived from areas hit by the coronavirus outbreak, authorities said Sunday.

The sudden collapse of the building on Saturday evening trapped 71 people, the Ministry of Emergency Management said. Thirty-eight had been rescued as of 10:30 a.m. Sunday, including one person in critical condition and four others in serious condition, the ministry said.

The ministry earlier reported that 48 people had been rescued. It did not immediately explain the discrepancy.

More than 1,000 firefighters and seven rescue dogs were dispatched to the site, according to the ministry. News photos showed rescue workers with flashlights climbing over the debris and bringing people out. Rubble was left piled on cars in front of the building.

The Xinjia Express Hotel is in Quanzhou, a coastal city in Fujian province. The city government said it was housing people who had come from coronavirus-hit areas. Most parts of China are quarantining people



from such areas for 14 days.

Two supermarkets on the first floor of the building were

undergoing remodeling, and a pillar reportedly deformed a few minutes prior to the collapse, the official Xinhua News Agency said, quoting a district official.

The owner of the building has been put under police control, Xinhua reported. Con-

struction of the building began in 2013 and it was converted into a 66-room hotel in 2018, the official told Xinhua.

The hotel opened in June 2018, with rooms on the fourth to seventh floors of the building, the newspaper Bei-

jing Youth Daily said.

China, where the virus first emerged in December, has confirmed more than 80,000 cases, by far the most in the world.

It reported 44 new cases over the last 24 hours on Sunday morning, the lowest level since

it began publishing nationwide figures on Jan 20. Another 27 deaths were reported, bringing the total to 3,097.

Most of the cases have been in Wuhan, an inland city about 670 kilometers (475 miles) northwest of Quanzhou.

Villagers flee to escape shootings in Indonesia's Papua region

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A weeklong shootout between security forces and a rebel group near the world's largest gold mine in Indonesia's easternmost Papua region has caused nearly 2,000 villagers to flee, officials said Saturday.

The clashes, which began Feb. 29 near the Grasberg copper and gold mine in Papua province, have killed a police officer and injured three others, Papua police chief Paulus Waterpauw said.

Rebels in Papua have been fighting a low-level insurgency since the early 1960s, when Indonesia annexed the region that was a former Dutch colony. Papua was formally incorporated into Indonesia in 1969 after a U.N.-sponsored ballot that was seen as a sham by many.

The mine, which is nearly half owned by U.S. Freeport-McMoRan and is run by PT Freeport Indonesia, is seen by separatists as a symbol of Indonesian rule and it has been frequent target for rebels.

Waterpauw said attackers believed to be members of the West Papua Liberation Army, the military wing of the Free Papua Organization, ambushed a police patrol from a

hill on Feb. 29, killing one officer and injuring two others.

In a second attack, gunmen shot at a police car on Tuesday, injuring another officer, he said.

The attacks occurred in the mining town of Tembagapura in Papua, where the rebels have been fighting a low-level insurgency for independence.

A local disaster mitigation agency chief, Yosias Lossu, said buses owned by PT Freeport Indonesia evacuated a group of 258 villagers from Banti and Kali Kabur villages on Friday. Another 699 people, mostly women and children, were evacuated early Saturday.

He said about 800 villagers from Longsoran, Batu Besar and Kimbeli villages were evacuated to a police headquarters in Tembagapura on Friday.

"Most women and children are scared and feel intimidated by gunfire near their villages," Lossu said.

A National Liberation Army of West Papua commander, Lekagak Telenggen, said in a statement released Saturday that they are responsible for the attacks in Tembagapura.

"We will keep fighting until PT Freeport Indonesia stops operating and closes," Telenggen said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine clashes leave 14 militants, 4 soldiers dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops have killed at least 14 Muslim militants aligned with the Islamic State group in a weeklong offensive in a southern province that also left four soldiers dead, a regional military commander said Saturday. Lt. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said an unspecified number of militants, including gunmen belonging to the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, were wounded in clashes in the towns of Ampatuan and Datu Hoffer Ampatuan in Maguindanao province.

The bodies of five of the slain militants were recovered by government forces, he said, adding that 10 soldiers were wounded in the fighting. The Islamic State group claimed that militants killed

43 soldiers using explosives while repulsing the recent military assaults in two Maguindanao villages, but Sobejana said the claim was "untrue."

Thai judge who alleged interference dies in 2nd suicide bid

BANGKOK (AP)—Police in Thailand say a judge who shot himself last year to publicize alleged interference in his work has died after what was apparently a second suicide attempt. Police Maj. Sathitchai Nitayawan in the northern province of Chiang Mai said that

Khanakorn Pianchana died in a hospital after apparently shooting himself in the chest Saturday morning. Khanakorn had posted a letter on his Facebook page several hours before his death complaining that he was being persecuted after his suicide attempt in October last year. He was moved from his post as a lower court judge in the southern province of Yala and reassigned to Chiang Mai. His letter said he feared he would lose his position as a judge and face criminal charges related to his first suicide attempt.

Mud houses collapse in heavy rains killing 17 in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Heavy rains in northwest Pakistan caused scores of mud houses to collapse, killing at least 17 people, mostly children, and injuring over 30 others, a disaster management official said Saturday. Taimoor Khan, spokesman for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province disaster management authority, said at least 49 houses were partly or fully destroyed by heavy rains and thunderstorms that started Wednesday. He said relief goods have been dispatched to the affected districts and distributed to affected residents. Khan said the Charsadda, Nowshera and Mandan districts were the most affected and financial compensation was also provided. Authorities said three women

and 14 children were among the dead. Heavy rains and thunderstorms caused heavy damage every year in mountainous northwestern Pakistan, where in most areas many people build mud and brick houses.

China rejects report it fired laser at US Navy plane

BEIJING (AP)—China's Defense Ministry says a report one of its navy ships fired a laser last month at a U.S. Navy surveillance plane circling overhead does not "accord with reality." The report last month was the latest accusation that Chinese forces have used lasers to harass and potentially damage U.S. and other nations' military aircraft and personnel. However, ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang was quoted as saying Friday that the ministry "refuted" the report and said a Chinese squadron was conducting routine exercises in international waters on Feb. 17 when the incident allegedly happened. In China's first public comments on the alleged incident, Ren accused an American P-8A Poseidon of carrying out "long-period circling reconnaissance at low-altitude despite repeated warnings from the Chinese side." "The American aircraft's behavior was unfriendly in intention and unprofessional by operation, which severely threatened the safety of the vessels, aircraft and crew of both sides," he said.

World

Italy announces quarantine affecting quarter of population

BEIJING (AP)—Italy's prime minister announced a sweeping coronavirus quarantine early Sunday, restricting the movements of about a quarter of the country's population in a bid to limit contagions at the epicenter of Europe's outbreak.

Shortly after midnight, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte signed a decree affecting about 16 million people in the country's prosperous north, including the Lombardy region and at least 14 provinces in neighboring regions. The extraordinary measures will be in place until April 3.

"For Lombardy and for the other northern provinces that I have listed there will be a ban for everybody to move in and out of these territories and also within the same territory," Conte said. "Exceptions will be allowed only for proven professional needs, exceptional cases and health issues."

■■■

MILAN (AP)—Pope Francis is further limiting his public appearances to prevent crowds from gathering as a precaution against the spread of coronavirus, which by Saturday had reached the tiny Mediterranean island nation of Malta.

The coronavirus outbreak is tightening its grip on day-to-life life across Europe, particularly in Italy, which is the country with the most



the last 24 hours, taking the total to 5,883. Another 36 people also died as a result of the virus, taking the total to 233.

There was chaos and confusion in the northern Italian city of Padua in the Veneto region as word spread late Saturday evening that the government was planning to announce the quarantine.

Packed bars and restaurants quickly emptied out as many people rushed to the train station in Padua. Travelers with suitcases, wearing face masks, gloves and carrying bottles of sanitizing gel shoved their way on to trains.

Before Conte signed the quarantine decree, Stefano Bonaccini, president of the Emilia Romagna region, said parts of the decree were confusing, and he asked the premier for more time to come up with solutions that were more "coherent."

Around the world, passenger-packed cruise ships confronted their own virus problems.

Officials in California were deciding Saturday where to dock the Grand Princess cruise ship, after 21 tested positive for the virus. There is evidence the ship now idling off San Francisco was the breeding ground for a deadly cluster of almost 20 cases during an earlier voyage.

"Those that will need to be quarantined will be quarantined," U.S. Vice President

Coronavirus by the numbers

Total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally

- 95,333 confirmed (2,241 new)

China

- 80,565 confirmed (143 new)
- 3,015 deaths (31 new)

Outside of China

- 14,768 confirmed (2,098 new)
- 85 countries (5 new)
- 267 deaths (53 new)

Risk assessment

China:	Very high
Regional level:	Very high
Global level:	Very high

As of March 5

Source: World Health Organization
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Mike Pence said. "Those who will require medical help will receive it." President Donald Trump said he would have preferred not to let the passengers disembark onto American soil, but would defer to medical experts.

In Egypt, a cruise ship on the Nile with more than 150 aboard was under quarantine in the southern city of Luxor after 12 positive tests.

Also Saturday, the port of Penang in Malaysia turned away the cruise ship Costa Fortuna because 64 of the 2,000 aboard are from Italy. The ship had already been rejected by Thailand, and is now heading to Singapore.

cases outside of Asia.
Italy on Saturday recorded its biggest daily increase in coronavirus cases since the outbreak broke out in the north of the country on Feb. 21. Another 1,247 cases were reported taking the total to 5,883. Another 36 people also died as a result of the virus, taking the death toll to 233. Most of the deaths have been among the elderly, with one or more underlying condition.

■■■
Around the world, more and more countries were

bracing for a big increase in virus cases. Western countries have been increasingly imitating China — where the virus first emerged late last year, and which has suffered the vast majority of infections — by imposing travel controls and shutting down public events.

After the city of Venice canceled its cherished Carnival and governments warned citizens against travel to Italy, the country is facing a possible recession. Hotel occupancy rates in the lagoon city are down to 1%-2%.

"The surface of the Grand Canal is like glass because the boats that transport merchandise are not there. On the vaporetti (water buses), there are only five or six people," Stefania Stea, vice president of the Venice hoteliers association, said.

Italy on Saturday saw its biggest daily increase in coronavirus cases since the outbreak began in the north of the country on Feb. 21.

In its daily update, Italy's civil protection agency said the number of people with the coronavirus rose by 1,247 in

last year, 7% more than in 2018. That works out to about 10 women slain each day in Mexico, making it one of the most dangerous countries in the world for females. Thousands more have gone missing without a trace in recent years.

Murders of women in Mexico are often accompanied by sexual violence and stunning brutality. Some women are burned. Some are mutilated. The ferocity of the killings has earned them a special label: femicide. Very few cases result in convictions.

"We don't want more simulation, we want action," said María de la Luz Estrada, coordinator of the National Citizen's Observatory of Femicide. "Enough already."

Estrada expects more than 20,000 women to march against the violence in Mexico City on Sunday, which is International Women's Day, with smaller marches and demonstrations throughout the country. She also endorses the strike.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Two senior princes in Saudi Arabia are under arrest for not supporting Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has consolidated control of all major levers of power with the support of his father, King Salman, two people close to the royal family said Saturday.

The arrests on Friday of the king's younger and beloved brother, Prince Ahmed bin Abdalaziz, and the king's nephew and former counterterrorism czar, Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, came after an accumulation of behavior that was provocative to leadership, one person in Saudi Arabia with knowledge of the arrests said.

Both princes had served previously in the post of interior minister, overseeing security and surveillance inside the kingdom.

The move came as a surprise, given that Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, 60, was widely known to be under close surveillance since he

was shunted out of the line of succession by the king's son in mid-2017, a person close to the royal court said.

The arrest of Prince Ahmed, 78, was also unexpected since he is the king's full younger brother and also a senior member of the ruling Al Saud family.

Prince Ahmed, however, has long held unfavorable views of the 34-year-old crown prince and was one of just a few senior princes to abstain from pledging allegiance to him when the young royal sidelined more senior princes to become first in line to the throne.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the arrests, quoting unidentified sources allied with the royal court as saying the princes were plotting a palace coup that would halt the rise of the crown prince.

The Journal has since reported that the sweep broadened to include dozens of Interior Ministry officials, senior army officers and others suspected

of supporting a coup attempt.

The two people who talked to The Associated Press declined to characterize actions by the two princes as a coup attempt. They agreed to discuss the highly sensitive matter related to security only if granted anonymity.

One added that the arrests were a message to all those in the royal family feeling disenchanted to stop grumbling and toe the line, saying that if Prince Ahmed can be arrested, any prince can and will be. Prince Ahmed was seen as a person that royals vexed with the crown prince's grip on power could look to, the person said.

There has been no official comment from Saudi authorities on the arrests.

The crown prince has succeeded in a few short years at sweeping aside any competition from royals older and more experienced than him. He has also overhauled the most powerful security bodies to report to him.

Mexican women to 'disappear' for a day to protest violence

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Don't go out. Don't shop. Don't go to school. Don't consume. The urging from women's activists is clear, but it remains unclear whether Mexico will really go a day without women on Monday.

After a year of increasingly heated and frequent protests over gender violence in Mexico, the call for women to strike has captured growing interest in recent weeks. It has also generated an intense debate about whether becoming "invisible" for a day will be a political statement, a diluted effort because some bosses have authorized paid time off or an ineffective way to push for change.

The discussion has gone beyond the usual circles of feminist collectives, public figures and social networks to become a conversation topic in the streets of Mexico, even for those who don't feel empowered to skip work.

Marta Patricia Ramírez, a housewife, says the national

Focus



India's beleaguered health system BRACES FOR VIRUS SURGE

By ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL and EMILY SCHMALL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian doctors stand inside the special ward set aside for possible COVID-19 patients at a government run hospital in Jammu, India, Friday, March 6, 2020. For weeks India watched as COVID-19 spread in neighboring China and other countries as its own caseload remained static. But with the virus now spreading communally in the country of 1.4 billion and 31 confirmed cases, authorities are scrambling to ready a beleaguered and vastly unequal medical system for a potential surge of patients.

NEW DELHI (AP)—India is bracing for a potential explosion of coronavirus cases as authorities rush to trace, test and quarantine contacts of 31 people confirmed to have the disease.

It is screening international travelers at 30 airports and has already tested more than 3,500 samples. The Indian army is preparing at least five large-scale quarantine centers.

For weeks, India watched as cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, multiplied in neighboring China and other countries as its own caseload remained static — three students evacuated from Wuhan, the disease epicenter, who were quarantined and returned to health in the southern state of Kerala.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government said last week that community transmission is now taking place. India has shut schools, stopped exporting key pharmaceutical ingredients and urged state governments to cancel public festivities for Holi, the Hindu springtime holiday in which people douse each other with colored water and paint.

Modi canceled travel plans to Brussels for an India-EU summit

amid a rising caseload in Belgium, and tweeted that he would not attend any Holi festivities.

Experts fear these precautions won't be enough for India's beleaguered, under-funded and under-staffed health system to stave off an epidemic. Here are their foremost concerns:

TOO FEW LABS, NOT ENOUGH HOSPITALS

As the virus spread globally, India began bolstering its ability to test and detect the virus. While the National Institute of Virology at Pune remains the main testing facility, the government has identified 35 additional labs for testing.

But concerns remain over India's overstretched health infrastructure — a single state-run hospital for every 55,591 people on average and a single hospital bed for every 1,844 people. India needs about 10 times more doctors to meet the norms prescribed by the World Health Organization, a shortfall of at least 500,000 doctors.

Experts fear that an epidemic would cause other routine health care functions to suffer.

"Everything will become about COVID-19. And other routine services like immunization or taking care of maternal mortality would be

affected," said Anant Bhan, a global health and policy expert.

HEALTH CARE INEQUALITY

India's health performance, an index that includes access to primary care, maternal mortality rates and child health, runs the spectrum, with some states outperforming others by almost 2.5 times, according to the government-run think tank NITI Aayog.

The best performer was Kerala, the small state that found and treated India's first three cases. The worst was Uttar Pradesh, a state with roughly the population of Brazil that has detected at least six cases. Kerala has a doctor for approximately every 6,000 people, while Uttar Pradesh has one for every 18,000 people. The inequalities are further pronounced between urban and rural areas, with the bulk of the available beds concentrated in India's cities.

India spent an average of \$62.72 per person on health care in 2016, according to WHO, compared to China's \$398.33.

Inequalities could make prevention even harder. In places with limited access to clean water, washing hands to prevent the spread of the virus is difficult, said Dr. Gagandeep Kang, a microbiologist who heads India's Translational Health Science

and Technology Institute.

Retired virologist and pediatrician Dr T. Jacob John said these inequalities aren't just a reflection of not spending enough on health care, but also of not knowing where to spend.

"The last time a needs-based survey was done for India's health care was in 1946," he said, adding that the country's "health management system is very inadequate for India's existing problems, let alone new ones."

QUARANTINE MILLIONS

India's health minister told Parliament that the "need of the hour" is to contain viral clusters, to prevent and break chains of transmission. But in India, with a population of 1.4 billion, that is far from easy.

Take the city of Agra, famous for the Taj Mahal, where six Italian tourists tested positive for the virus. Apart from the 40,000 tourists who visit the monument each day, the city has a population of more than 4 million, with nearly 3,000 people crammed into every square mile. Following WHO advice, the Indian government has told people keep a distance of at least six feet from others.

But "anywhere you've a dense population, all the issues of social distancing become challenging," Kang said. The question, she said, is whether authorities want to do that now, or at the height of an epidemic.

SHORT ON MEDICINES

With the virus lockdown in China resulting in shortages in India, the government halted the export of 13 key drug ingredients and the medicines made from them on Tuesday.

Although India is the world's primary supplier of generic drugs, it relies on China for nearly 70% of the active pharmaceutical ingredients it uses for making medicines.

India has said it has enough stocks, but the government's minister for chemicals and fertilizers told Parliament that there remains "an apprehension" that supplies of ingredients from China would be disrupted if the epidemic continues.

LONG-TERM RESPONSE

On Thursday, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan met the management of India's top private hospitals to ask them to work with the government in dealing with the outbreak, and urged them to "prepare a pool of beds."

Kang said India's current approach, which is focused on travelers, might restrict some cases. But eventually, it will have to expand testing to limit the spread of the disease within the country, Kang said. The question, she said, is whether authorities want to do that now, or at the height of an epidemic.

Health & Wellness

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DREAMSTIME/TNS

COVID-19: information on symptoms, transmission

Information about the spread of COVID-19 continues to evolve. "We're still learning a lot about this virus, and much of the information that we know now comes from understanding of other respiratory viruses that we have experience with in the past," says Dr. Nipunie Rajapakse, a Mayo Clinic pediatric infectious diseases specialist.

"The coronaviruses typically cause respiratory illnesses," says Dr. Rajapakse. "They can range in severity, from very mild—maybe even asymptomatic illness—all the way to severe disease or sometimes rarely even death."

Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website for additional updates on COVID-19.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

"The main symptoms that have been described with COVID-19 are fever, cough and shortness of breath," says Dr. Rajapakse. "Interestingly, unlike many other respiratory viruses, only a minority of patients have been reporting upper respiratory symptoms like runny nose or sore throat, although some people have reported those."

"Coronaviruses, including COVID-19, can create a spectrum of illness, and, so, some people will be very mildly affected and some people can have more severe disease," says Dr. Rajapakse. "So the severity of ill-

MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

Tips to avoid illness while traveling

Nothing can ruin a vacation like getting sick. But germs can be hard to avoid when traveling, especially if you're flying to your destination.

"You are potentially exposed to lots of different types of germs in a public setting where you have a lot of people who are in a relatively confined space," explains Dr. Nipunie Rajapakse, a Mayo Clinic pediatric infectious disease specialist.

She says the best thing travelers can do to protect themselves from picking up an infection, like the flu, is wash their hands.

"As simple as it sounds, it really is

ness can range from having a cold or a flu-type illness all the way to needing to be hospitalized or be in an intensive care unit."

COVID-19 TRANSMISSION SIMILAR TO INFLUENZA

"Based on what we know about this outbreak so far, as well as information about how other respiratory viruses are transmitted, the primary route of transmission for this is thought to be respiratory droplets," says Dr. Rajapakse. "Respiratory droplets are usu-

ally transmitted when someone coughs or sneezes, and someone else either inhales it or touches something that the virus particle has landed on, and then touches their own eyes, nose or mouth. Generally, a respiratory droplet can transmit about 3 to 6 feet from the person who has coughed or sneezed."

Making sure your food is piping hot and cooked thoroughly also

ally transmitted when someone coughs or sneezes, and someone else either inhales it or touches something that the virus particle has landed on, and then touches their own eyes, nose or mouth. Generally, a respiratory droplet can transmit about 3 to 6 feet from the person who has coughed or sneezed."

PROTECT YOURSELF

"The best thing you can do to protect yourself and your family from getting infected. No. 1 is to wash your hands," says Dr. Rajapakse. "The second thing is to practice what we call respiratory

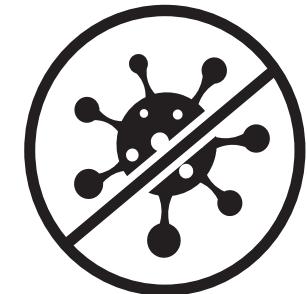
can decrease your risk.

When going through a busy airport, you may notice some travelers wearing face masks. Dr. Rajapakse says if you're sick, wearing a face mask can decrease your risk of transmitting the infection to someone else. However, in terms of otherwise healthy people, she says that face masks generally don't give that much additional protection. (Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)

Mayo Clinic News Network is your source for health news, advances in research and wellness tips.

etiquette. That means coughing or sneezing into your elbow or into a tissue, and then washing your hands well afterward. We know viral particles that end up on your fingers and hands can be transmitted to other people, and, so, that's one way to protect yourself and your family."

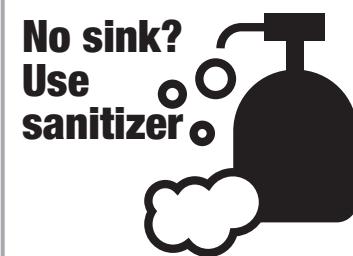
"The other main thing that we would encourage people is to stay home if they're feeling ill with cough and fever especially. This avoids exposing people at school or at work to infection and illness," says Dr. Rajapakse. (Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)



5 steps to wash the right way

By following some basic steps on the proper way to wash your hands, you can help reduce your risk and do your part to protect others, if your community is affected by the coronavirus.

- Wet your hands with clean running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under clean running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.



Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Source: CDC

Graphic: Staff, TNS

Life & Style

Publisher cancels plans to release Woody Allen memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Woody Allen's publisher has decided to cancel the planned release of his memoir "Apropos of Nothing."

The announcement Friday by Hachette Book Group followed days of criticism focused on allegations that Allen sexually abused his daughter Dylan Farrow. On Thursday,

dozens of Hachette employees staged a walkout.

"The decision to cancel Mr. Allen's book was a difficult one. At HBG we take our relationships with authors very seriously, and do not cancel books lightly," the publisher announced.

"We have published and will continue to publish many

challenging books. As publishers, we make sure every day in our work that different voices and conflicting points of views can be heard."

Allen's book was scheduled to come out next month.

Allen has denied any wrongdoing and was never charged after two separate investigations in the 1990s. But the allegations have received new attention in the #MeToo era.

Allen's agreement with Hachette meant that he briefly shared a publisher with one of his biggest detractors, his son Ronan Farrow, whose "Catch and Kill" was released last year by the Hachette division

healthy and safe," Ciara said.

Ciara's announcement comes a day after the organizers of Austin's South by Southwest announced they had cancelled the annual arts and technology festival. On Thursday, the three-day Ultra electronic dance music festival, originally planned for March 20-22 in Miami featuring David Guetta, The Chainsmokers and more, was officially postponed. And Mariah Carey announced she was postponing a March concert in Honolulu to November because of the coronavirus.

Outside of the United States, more shows have been postponed or cancelled. Queen and Adam Lambert's tour stop in Paris was postponed, while Maluma and Louis Tomlinson are no longer performing shows in Milan. And in Asia, several acts including BTS, Green Day, Avril Lavigne and Khalid, have cancelled or postponed live shows.



Ciara

NEW YORK (AP)—The American Film Institute says it is postponing its 48th annual AFI Life Achievement Award Gala Tribute honoring Julie Andrews in an apparent response to the new coronavirus outbreak.

The organization originally planned to give Andrews its Life Achievement Award on April 25 in Los Angeles. It will be rescheduled for

Woody Allen.
Apropos of Nothing.
Autobiography.



(GRAND CENTRAL PUBLISHING VIA AP, LEFT, AND AP PHOTO)

This combination photo shows a book cover image for "Apropos of Nothing," an autobiography by Woody Allen, to be released on April 7.

Ciara is latest musician to postpone show due to coronavirus

NEW YORK (AP)—Grammy-winning singer Ciara is the latest musician to postpone a concert because of the rapidly spreading coronavirus.

Ciara, who is pregnant, was set to perform in Texas at the grand opening of the new Fort Hood USO on March 19 but announced Saturday that the event is being postponed.

"With the continued spread of the coronavirus throughout the U.S., as a pregnant woman, my doctors have advised me to limit travel and large group gatherings," Ciara said in a statement. "I am disappointed I won't be able to return this month to the place where I was born, Ft. Hood Texas, and put on the amazing show we had planned."

The grand opening of the new Fort Hood USO will now take place in the summer and the concert will be rescheduled for later this year.

"I urge everyone to be diligent in taking steps to stay

early summer.

"AFI's decision to postpone the event is simply in response to the rapidly evolving nature of current events and our promise to ensure the well-being of the artists and audience that gather each year to celebrate America's art form," AFI CEO and President Bob Gazzale said in a statement Saturday. "This move will allow our full attention to focus on

sonally and an utter betrayal of my brother whose brave reporting, capitalized on by Hachette, gave voice to numer-

ous survivors of sexual assault by powerful men," Dylan Farrow said in a statement Monday hours after details of the book were released by The Associated Press.

Ronan Farrow followed up a day later, calling Hachette's decision "wildly unprofessional." Both he and his sister complained that the publisher had not reached out to fact check their father's book.

American Film Institute postponing gala with Julie Andrews

the many gifts that Julie Andrews has given the world."

AFI did not directly cite the virus outbreak that officials in numerous countries, including the United States, are trying to contain. The postponement is one of several changes that have been made in recent days to entertainment industry events, including Friday's decision to cancel the South by Southwest

Andrews' acting career has spanned several decades, winning an Academy Award in 1965 for her starring role in "Mary Poppins." She also starred in "The Sound of Music" and "The Princess Diaries."

Miami cancels large Hispanic music festival over coronavirus

MIAMI (AP)—Officials canceled on Friday a large Hispanic street festival in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood citing fears that crowded events could spread coronavirus more widely.

Mayor Francis Suarez said the city of Miami would not grant permits for the Calle Ocho

Music Festival, effectively canceling the street event, in an "abundance of caution" as cases of the coronavirus continue to rise. Four people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Florida, but so far none in Miami.

Authorities announced the decision a day after they decided to cancel another music

festival that draws thousands to Miami's downtown Bayfront Park. Both festivals take place in March, in Florida's spring break season.

Ultra festival organizers said the city of Miami was following directives from the governor of Florida and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Calle Ocho was scheduled for Sunday to stretch over 20 blocks in the heart of the city's Cuban community, with live music performances of Latino artists on 10 stages. Organizers say it draws a million people and in the past has featured artists that are now widely known such as Pitbull and Maluma.

Man cuts all ties to family after the death of his dog

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, my older brother had an accident and needed to live at my parents' house while he recovered. He brought along his 4-year-old dog, "Pepper." The dog needed to be on a special diet.

My father, who is a major alcoholic, enjoyed having Pepper there, but because he is an alcoholic, you can't tell him anything he doesn't want to hear. Because my brother had been seriously hurt and was in a hospital bed and wheelchair, my father fed the dog. Despite my brother's pleas, my father fed Pepper whatever he wanted—including chocolate. It made Pepper very sick, and he was dead within three months. The vet said it was because of what my father fed him.

My brother blew up at my father. He called him every name in the book, concluding with the comment that my father was a filthy drunk who deserved to die in the gutter. Despite his injuries, my brother left the house and has never spoken to us again. Regrettably, my mother and I were both dependent on my father and didn't want to anger him, so we took his side.

A month ago, I decided to track my brother down. He is now married and lives out of the country with his wife, daughter and in-laws. My brother told me he's sorry for not staying in touch with me, but he no longer wishes to speak to our parents. My mother is pressing me for information, but I am afraid to tell her and my father much of anything. Should I tell my parents about my brother?

ABANDONED SISTER

DEAR SISTER: I'm guessing your parents wouldn't be pressing you for information if you hadn't revealed to them that you found your brother. If that's the case, that was a mistake. If you must reveal anything, tell them your brother is well and happy, but hasn't changed his feelings about them and still wants no contact.

DEAR ABBY: I just received a brief, friendly email from my husband's grandmother. In it she asked me if our newest addition was "a good baby." That phrase is a pet peeve of mine.

When she was talking about how my mother-in-law wasn't a good baby, I told her that all babies are good babies. I may not be as upset as I am by her using those words if she wasn't terrible with children (e.g., overly strict, too-high expectations) and if she didn't have a knack for getting into fights with and complaining about nearly everyone.

I want to respond to her email, but I can't bring myself to agree with the premise that the possibility exists that my infant, or any infant for that matter, could be anything other than a good baby. I also don't want to start a fight with her that would seem petty, and I don't want to blow off her email. What should I do?

INCENSED IN INDIANA

DEAR INCENSED: In the interest of whatever family harmony is left intact in "Granny's" wake, limit the drama and give her a brief reply that doesn't refer to "good babies"—something like, "It was good to hear from you." Period.

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: How may I delicately encourage my delightful European boyfriend to wear deodorant? I am not the only one who has noticed. He is otherwise very hygienic.

HOLDING MY NOSE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR HOLDING: Consider approaching the subject this way: "You know, 'Jacques,' here in the United States, we have some 'peculiar' standards of personal hygiene" ... then explain what they entail. Yes, body odors are "natural," but not if they knock someone over from four feet away.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Love scores 27 points, Cavs surprise Nuggets again



CLEVELAND (AP)—Kevin Love scored 27 points, hitting the go-ahead basket with four minutes remaining, and the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers surprised the Denver Nuggets for the second time this season, 104-102 on Saturday night.

Collin Sexton scored 25 points and Matthew Dellavedova had a career-high 14 assists to help Cleveland end a four-game losing streak.

The Cavaliers, playing without center Andre Drummond and rookies Darius Garland and Kevin Porter Jr., went on 10-0 run after trailing 93>equals)92.

Tristan Thompson missed two free throws with 20 seconds left, but Jamal Murray missed a fadeaway baseline jumper as time ran out.

Love missed badly on his first two shots -- both 3-pointers—to start the game, but more than made up for it by carrying the Cavaliers down the stretch.

“Mostly it was just me being off-balance,” he said about his slow start. “If you wouldn’t have known any better you would have thought I was drunk.”

Love missed a 26-foot jumper on Cleveland’s first possession and followed with a 32-footer, joking that both almost damaged the backboard.

“I don’t think I’ve ever started a game where I hit the American flag and hit Jerry West (logo) back-to-back,” he said. “That was absolutely brutal. I actually just had to laugh it off.”

The Cavaliers have the worst record in the Eastern Conference, but beat the Nuggets, who have the third-best record in the West in both meetings this season. Cleveland won 111-103 win in Denver on Jan. 11.

“That was a fun one,” Love said, a point of view that Murray didn’t share.

“We got swept by the Cavs,” he said. “It hurts. You’ve got to look at yourself in the mirror because it hurts.”

Hornets 108, Rockets 99

In Charlotte, Terry Rozier scored 24 points and the fast-starting Hornets beat the slumping Houston Rockets.

The Hornets roared ahead 20-0 in the first 6 1/2 minutes. The Rockets had eight turnovers and missed five 3-pointers on their first 12 possessions.

Houston twice closed within three in the second quarter and within five in the third quarter. The Rockets have lost three straight after winning six straight and 10 of 12.



James Harden had 30 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists for his 46th career triple-double and fourth this season. He also had 10 of Houston’s 21 turnovers.

Robert Covington added 25 points for the Rockets, and Jeff Green had 20.

Rozier scored 12 of his points in the third quarter to help Charlotte snap a three-game losing streak.

Warriors 118, 76ers 114

In San Francisco, Eric Paschal scored 23 points, includ-

ing a pair of free throws with 51.7 seconds remaining, and Golden State beat Philadelphia to snap a 10-game home losing streak.

Playing once again without Stephen Curry, the Warriors trailed most of the game and were down by eight entering

the fourth quarter.

Curry, who returned from a 58-game absence to play Thursday night, was diagnosed with the flu and was held out. The Warriors termed it a seasonal flu and said that Curry has begun treatment. The team also said that Curry

around, but general manager Sean Marks was hellbent on firing a friend, someone who helped build the Nets into a respectable product.

Marks didn’t say it was the Nets’ 28-34 record, off the pace from their 32-30 mark at this point last year. It would’ve been an excuse that didn’t fly far, but he didn’t even make note of it during his media session Saturday afternoon.

Now the Nets become an intriguing place for whomever will step in next season, assuming Jacque Vaughn only keeps the interim title for the next 20 games. It’s a challenge to corral all of this together, especially when Irving and Durant are so admittedly mercurial and tough to please.

Irving soured on Atkinson early, league sources said, and currently prefers Clippers assistant Tyronn Lue to be the team’s next head coach. Lue was the head coach in Cleveland when Irving hit the winning shot in the 2016 NBA Finals and was in talks to take the Lakers job before discussions broke down.

Denver Nuggets’ Mason Plumlee (7) and Cleveland Cavaliers’ Larry Nance Jr. (22) battle for the ball in the second half of an NBA game, Saturday, March 7, 2020, in Cleveland.

is not at specific risk for COVID-19 or coronavirus. Philadelphia was missing stars Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons, while Golden State also was without Draymond Green.

Damion Lee had Lee finished with 24 points and six rebounds for the Warriors, and Marquese Chriss added 13 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists.

Tobias Harris scored 24 points for Philadelphia. Al Horford had 22 points and 10 rebounds,

Jazz 111, Pistons 105

In Detroit, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 32 points and Utah withstood two big Pistons’ rallies for its fifth straight victory.

Utah led by 22 points in the second quarter, but the Pistons came all the way back to tie it early in the fourth. The Jazz then went on an 18-2 run, but that big lead nearly slipped away as well. It was a one-possession game before Utah’s Rudy Gobert made two free throws with 18.5 seconds left to make it 107-102.

The Jazz moved 1 1/2 games ahead of the Houston Rockets for the No. 4 spot in the Western Conference.

Donovan Mitchell scored 25 points for Utah. Christian Wood scored a career-high 30 points for Detroit. The Pistons lost for the 17th time in 21 games.

Grizzlies 118, Hawks 101

In Memphis, Jonas Valanciunas had 27 points and 17 rebounds, rookie Ja Morant added 24 points and the Grizzlies beat Atlanta to keep their hold on the final Western Conference playoff spot.

Josh Jackson had 17 points, Dillon Brooks and De’Anthony Melton added 13 each and Memphis won its fourth in the last five. Valanciunas was 10 of 13 from the field and had three blocks.

John Collins led the Hawks with 27 points.

Kings 123, Trail Blazers 111

In Portland, Bogdan Bogdanovic had 27 points and eight assists, Buddy Hield added 22 points and Sacramento beat the Trail Blazers for its fourth victory in five games.

The Kings shot 21 for 39 on 3-pointers, tying a franchise record for made 3s.

Hassan Whiteside had 19 points and 11 rebounds for Portland. CJ McCollum also had 19 points.

mates, and I play for the fans. That’s what it’s all about. So if I show up to an arena and there ain’t no fans in there, I ain’t playing. They can do what they want to do.”

The memo, obtained by The Associated Press, says teams should identify which team and arena people would be necessary to conduct games, and be able to communicate quickly with non-essential staff, as well as ticket holders and corporate partners.

Teams should also be prepared “for the possibility of implementing temperature checks on players, team staff, referees, and anyone else who is essential to conducting such a game in the team’s arena.”

But when James was asked about that possibility after he scored 37 points in his Los Angeles Lakers’ 113-103 win over the league-leading Milwaukee Bucks on Friday night, the NBA’s leading active scorer was definitive.

“We play games without the fans? Nah, that’s impossible,” James said. “I ain’t playing if I ain’t got the fans in the crowd. That’s who I play for. I play for my team.”

Kyrie prefers Lue as next Nets head coach

The clock on Kenny Atkinson’s time with the Brooklyn Nets started ticking the moment Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving arrived on his doorstep, when the franchise turned from afterthought to relevant.

The atmosphere Atkinson

helped build — one that was apparently so attractive to Durant and Irving — seems like it played a part in his undoing. Whether he was fired or “mutually parting ways”, as the Nets news release states, is immaterial.

In a year that was nothing more than groundwork for the future, the meshing of Atkinson’s style with Durant and Irving was on trial. Even though Irving only played 20 games and is out for the season following shoulder surgery and Durant is still recovering from his Achilles injury, everyone had to deal with each other and honestly evaluate if this would be a marriage that would stand into next season.

“Kenny pushed for the parting just as much, if not more than Brooklyn,” a league source said.

In a player’s league and on a team where star players’ voices undoubtedly matter for a franchise that yearns to matter, it’s hard to envision a scenario where Durant and Irving wanted to keep Atkinson

MLB limits spring autographs amid virus outbreak

 **SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.**
(AP)—

A baseball fan's treasure trove sat on a table outside the San Francisco Giants clubhouse Saturday morning—hundreds of baseball cards signed by the franchise's biggest stars.

Buster Posey, Hunter Pence, Evan Longoria and more, all ready for eager autograph seekers at the club's spring training home in Scottsdale.

A generous gesture, but also a measure aimed at keeping players and fans safe amid the coronavirus outbreak.

"You know just the amount of people that come to games, come to ask for autographs and stuff like that, that's the biggest fear," Longoria said. "But outside of that, what are you gonna do?"

That's what clubs are trying to figure out. The COVID-19 strain has already been diagnosed in patients in Florida and Arizona, the home bases for all 30 major league teams during spring training. Like pro sports leagues around the world, Major League Baseball is trying to balance fan experience with public health.

At the Giants' facility in Scottsdale, personnel cleaned railings and seats around the ballpark shortly before fans began arriving for an afternoon game against the Chicago White Sox. Daily sanitizing measures have become standard practice in San Francisco's clubhouse, too, as have reminders about hand-washing and warnings that ill players should stay home.

MLB sent a memo to teams 10 days ago sharing recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control aimed at stemming the virus outbreak. The league has formed a task force to monitor the situation and provided periodic updates to teams on measures to protect fans, players and team personnel—including



AP
Cleveland Indians' Mike Freeman, left, signs autographs for fans as a Goodyear Stadium employee holds a container of pens and autograph cards prior to the team's spring training baseball game against the Chicago Cubs on Saturday, March 7, 2020, in Goodyear, Ariz. The stadium offered the items for players to sign autographs as a precaution for the coronavirus.

the suggestion to have players pre-sign memorabilia.

Baseball has also had dialogue with other pro sports leagues regarding the outbreak. The NBA sent a memo to its franchises Friday instructing them to prepare to play games without fans in the stadium if necessary. With opening day about three weeks away, MLB has not issued a similar warning.

Fans are still filling spring training parks, but they aren't getting quite the same access. Any other year, these spring games are an ideal chance for young fans to meet their favorite stars during batting practice. On Saturday, the Giants adhered to club and league wishes and mostly stayed clear, save for a couple players and coaches who used their gloves to bump fists.

The Nationals tweeted their temporary autograph policy Saturday, informing fans they won't be able to bring their own memorabilia to its weekly autograph meet-and-greet with players. Instead, the team is having players sign cards, programs and other items to be distributed at the event, and also periodically during games.

At Goodyear Ballpark, a stadium employee carried a container of pens and cards for Cleveland players to sign before a game against the Cubs. And in Jupiter, Florida, on Friday night, Marlins players in the bullpen area had their own Sharpies, pens and hand sanitizer at the ready.

Similar measures have been taken in other sports. The ATP and WTA Tours have instruct-

ed tennis players not to accept pens, balls or other items from fans in the process of signing, and is also asking them not to share used towels, headbands and other equipment with fans. Ball kids will be given gloves to wear during matches, as well.

Aside from those precautions, though, spring training camp life has felt like business as usual—at least so far.

The Giants held a meeting with players regarding the virus Friday, but starter Jeff Samardzija said, "I don't think anybody is organically talking about it."

At some point, players may also need to consider what to do with families during the travel-heavy season. Posey said he and his wife, Kristen, haven't adjusted plans for them and their two young chil-

dren, but "that could change as more information comes about."

"It seems like it's changing daily," the All-Star catcher

said. "Just kind of keep an eye out. I think the hard thing is just trying to gather accurate information, right? That's with anything."

Tokyo downsizes arrival ceremony for Olympic torch

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo organizers are downsizing the arrival ceremony for the Olympic torch because of the spreading coronavirus.

Organizing committee president Yoshiro Mori said Friday that 140 children will not be sent to Greece to give the flame a send off on March 19, a day before it is due to arrive in Japan.

"It's a gut-wrenching decision not to be able to let them perform," Mori said, speaking in Japanese.

The Olympic torch will be lighted on March 12 in a ceremony in Greece and then flown to Japan. It is to land in Miyagi at a Japan Air Self-Defense base in the northern part of the country.

Mori said the changes forced by the spreading virus "make me feel even more strongly about not losing the fight."

"Of course we are worried," he added. "But the government is doing its utmost to battle the situation, and scientists are fighting against the challenges. I believe in the power of human beings and the efforts from around the world. But that

doesn't mean will just wait and hope."

Mori referred obliquely to changes being made. The IOC says the 2020 Games will go on as planned, but others have speculated about postponing, canceling, moving events or changing cities, or even holding an Olympics without fans.

"The Tokyo Olympics should be held even if parts of it have to be modified," Mori said. "But it does not mean we will scale it down."

The four-month torch relay around Japan begins on March 26 from Fukushima prefecture, located about 250 kilometers (150 miles) northeast of Tokyo. It is to end on July 24 at the new \$1.43 billion national stadium in Tokyo.

Mori did not discuss any other changes to the relay. He was asked about the opening on July 24 and ruled out any postponement.

The International Olympic Committee and local organizers have repeated over and over that the Olympics will open as scheduled. The Paralympics are set to begin on Aug. 25.

Tiger still not ready, will miss The Players Championship



ORLANDO, Fla.
(AP)—The strongest field of the year at The Players Championship will be without the biggest draw in golf.

Tiger Woods isn't playing. Woods will miss The Players Championship for the first time when not recovering from any of his nine surgeries. His agent, Mark Steinberg at Excel Sports Management, said in a text, "Back just not ready. Not long term concern."

Woods has played only two times this year, a tie for ninth at Torrey Pines and last place at the Genesis Invitational at Riviera, where he serves as tournament host. Woods shot

76-77 on the weekend at Riviera in the Pacific chill and said his back was a little stiff.

He decided at the last minute not to play the World Golf Championships event in Mexico. He didn't play the Honda Classic for the second straight year, and then he chose not to play the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill, where he has won a record eight times.

The Players was seen as a likely return, except that Woods isn't ready.

Woods later tweeted that it wasn't an easy decision.

"I have to listen to my body and properly rest when needed," Woods said. "My back is simply just not ready for play next week. I'm sad to miss one

of the best events of the season, OUR Championship."

Woods has been saying all year that he plans to play fewer events, mainly so the 44-year-old with five knee surgeries and four back surgeries can stay in golf longer.

He is a two-time winner on the TPC Sawgrass, most recently in 2013. Woods had the first of four back operations the following year and was at The Players only once over the next four years, a tie for 69th in 2015. He ended that season with two more back surgeries.

Before that, Woods missed The Players in 2008 when it was held in May. He had arthroscopic knee surgery after the Masters that year and

didn't play again until the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, which he won despite shredded ligaments in his left knee and a double stress fracture in his leg.

That limits the amount of golf Woods will play leading into his title defense at the Masters, one of the biggest moments in sports a year ago when he rallied to win a fifth green jacket and his first major in 11 years.

Next on the schedule after The Players is the Valpar Championship at Innisbrook, where Woods tied for second two years ago. It was his first appearance at the Tampa Bay event, and it attracted record crowds.

Comeback win for Napa Auto Parts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Napa Auto Parts pulled off a come-from-behind 82-74 victory over Pacific Hardware during their game in the One Pacific Promotional Basketball League 2020 last Friday at the Civic Center Court.

Paulo Rafols scored 25 points, 14 of them came in the fourth quarter to complete Napa's comeback bid.

Napa fell behind by as much as 13 points early in the second period, 25-12, before Rafols, Alken Ige, and Ivan Devero teamed up in bringing the team back into the game. The trio combined



for 18 of Napa's 24 points in the second canto that ended with Pacific Hardware's lead down to single digit, 41-34. Pacific Hardware kept the upper hand, thanks to Mark Mintac's 10 points in the second frame.

Napa continued its uphill climb in the second half, as it moved closer in the third period, 55-57. Aiken added 7 points in the penultimate frame, while Devero and Rafols teamed up for 9 more, trimming the deficit down to just a bucket.

Rafols and company went on to overhaul Pacific Hardware's lead in the fourth canto, as the Napa big man asserted his might in the paint for his best showing in a quarter. Rafols drilled 8 straight markers at one point in the fourth period to help Napa steal the victory from Pacific Hardware.

Mintac, after earning 20-plus points at the end of the third canto, was held to two field goals in the final frame. Viray was also limited to 4 points after firing 16 in the first three quarters.

Meanwhile, Connie's BBQ bounced back from its season debut loss after topping Ming Yang last Thursday, 77-67.

Connie's BBQ, which fell to Mawati during the league's opener late last month, jumped to a 25-15 lead and never looked back.

Connie's BBQ earned a



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Napa Auto Part's Paulo Rafols, left, reaches in to take the ball away from Pacific Hardware's Manolo Manalo during their game in the One Pacific caging last Friday at the Civic Center Court.

double-digit winning margin after a good shooting night, as it knocked in nine triples in the game.

Napa 82—Rafols 25, Ege 21, Devero 14, Fitial 6, Ebuen 5, Fundador 5, Dacumos 2.

Pacific Hardware 74—Mintac 27, Viray 20, Manalo 10, Sampang 8, Concepcion 5, Ocampo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-12, 41-34, 57-55, 74-82

Joeten Motors offers 2020 Kia Soul as prize in NMC tourney



Joeten Motors has announced that it is offering a brand new 2020 Kia Soul as a hole-in-one prize in the 16th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open Golf Tournament set for March 21 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

The event will be the first major golf tournament of the year. Proceeds from this year's competition will go to NMC's Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts. The super typhoon in 2018 destroyed more than 80% of the

NMC campus.

"NMC's Foundation Golf Tournament continues to raise funds that benefit students and their efforts to grow professionally," Joeten Motors general manager Matthew Deets said. "We are proud to be part of this year's tournament again with our company's hole-in-one prize contribution."

"Joeten Motors has consistently been a part of the success of NMC's Foundation Golf Tournament, and we are glad the company is joining us this year as a major sponsor again," said NMC interim



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joeten Motors has announced that it is offering a brand new 2020 Kia Soul as a hole-in-one prize in the 16th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament. This year's tournament will be held on the east course of the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort on March 21.

president Frankie Eliptico. "Joeten Motors' hole-in-one donation raises the excitement and anticipation of the tourna-

ment. We are grateful for their support."

The 16th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation

Open Golf Tournament will be held on the east course of the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. Showtime is at 6am, while shotgun start is at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First female finisher Anika Snyder is flanked by Triple J Enterprises chief executive officer and chair Robert H. Jones, left, and vice president Jay Jones at the podium during the awards ceremony for last Saturday's Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk.

winners in other age groups were: men's 14 to 19's Josh Joson, Simon Shan, and Ivan Li and women's Tiana Cabrera, and Elizabeth and Eunice Xu; men's 20 to 29's Tony Zhang, Edwin Dela Cruz, and Victor Villacrusis and women's Anastacia Dela Cruz, Kriz Gozon, and Patricia Cortez; men's 30 to 39's Shuti Kuroda, Jacob Walker, and Jay Muna and women's Sheila Barbo, Roxanne Soriano, and Mylene Palacios; men's 40 to 49's Sato, Ronald Villafria, and Jimmy Mendiola and women's Ayano Braxton, Sheila Isla, and Fatima Yu; men's 50 to 59's Jun Hashimoto, Robert Zamudio, and Nestro Corotan and women's Malou Carlos, Irene Holl, and Lizama Comon; and men's over 60's Chang Whan Jang, Ponciano Corotan, and Diony Peralta and women's Marcia Schultz, Juanito Fajardo, and Fely Garcia.

School, 20-4, Garapan and Oleai, before losing in their finals bids, made it to the semis after beating WSR B, 16-2, and San Vicente Elementary School B, 12-4, respectively.

Agape clinches girls title

While Koblerville labored its way through the title win in the boys division, Agape Christian School took the girls crown easily after topping Garapan, 12-2.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Koblerville Elementary School players and coaches pose for a photo after topping Kagman Elementary School in their title game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Elementary Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

SIS

From Page 24

we have families, friends, students, and employees and they all had fun," Jay Jones said.

"We prepared for this for months and we know the community is excited and expecting to go ahead with this event as long as it is safe. We have to give it to them and we're happy we made it happen," Jones added when asked about holding the 5K walk/run despite the challenges the islands are facing right now, especially the COVID-19 threat that forced the cancellation or postponement of some big-crowd events around the world.

Meanwhile, besides Song and Snyder, Triple J also recognized the Top 3 finishers in each age group.

Red Pixley topped the boys U13 division and was joined in the podium by runners-up Joseph Li and Ruben Guerrero. In the girls U13, the Top 3 finishers were Kaithlyn Chavez, Emma Pang, and Shoko Litulmar. They all received medals.

Rounding out the Top 3

FINALE

From Page 24

School in the semis, 18-10, to book the first finals ticket.

In the title game, Kagman raced to a 4-0 lead behind the two straight baskets of Sebu. However, the match ended in a deadlock after the first half, 6-6, as Camacho, Jerald Dalawampu and Basa scored for the Umangs, while the Marlins got only one basket from Delos Santos.

Dalawampu broke the tie with his undergoal shot, while Camacho, the tallest player on Koblerville's side, also made a bucket in the paint, giving the Umangs more cushion, 10-6. However, Sebu countered with a baseline jumper followed by Lizama's banked shot to force the standoff anew.

The game stayed even for several minutes before Basa and Camacho broke the deadlock and Kagman's heart in the closing phase of the title game.

Kagman, which had a 6-0 record in the prelims, advanced to the championship match after eliminating William S. Reyes Elementary School A, 18-10, and Oleai Elementary

Ruth Zhang led Agape, scoring 8 of their total points in the finale. Joining Zhang on the champion squad were Barbara Wang, Mary Fu, Serena Chen, Yiliu Wang, Crystal Yu, and Jessie Campbell, while Pastor Kok H. Pang coached Agape.

Agape moved to the finals after ousting Oleai Elementary School, 22-2, and Koblerville, 12-4, while Garapan made it to the title game following its victory over San Vicente, 14-6.



**Love scores
27 points,
Cavs surprise
Nuggets again**

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune Sports

**MLB limits spring
autographs
amid virus
outbreak**

PAGE 22

24 MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SIS students lead Triple J 5K finishers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 Saipan International School's Ken Song and Anika Snyder led the more than 1,000 finishers of last Saturday's Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk.

Song completed the run/walk from Garapan Fishing Base to just past the Quartermaster Road (across Blue Beach House) and back in 18:23 to emerge as the No. 1 overall finisher in the annual event hosted by Triple J Enterprises. The SIS senior

entered the finishers' loop along with Kosuke Sato, but outsprinted the latter to rule the fundraiser.

"We ran together almost all throughout the race before I took over in the last 800m meters," said Song, who used last Saturday's event to warm up for the school meet's track season.

Snyder will also suit up for SIS' track squad in the upcoming interscholastic competition and was off to a good start after topping the entire women's field of last weekend's race with her time of 22:58.

Snyder and Song were

recognized at the event's awards ceremony attended by Triple J Enterprises chief executive officer and chair Robert H. Jones, vice president Jay Jones, and other company executives.

"We are very pleased with the turnout and thankful to everyone for joining us this morning (last Saturday). People of all ages came out,

See SIS on Page 23

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ken Song (1133) leads runners as they head out to the course during last Saturday's Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk.



Koblerville nips Kagman in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Payton Lizama and Gio Camacho teamed up in the pivotal play for Koblerville Elementary School to lift the Umangs to a 12-10 finals victory over Kagman High School in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Elementary Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Lizama drove baseline (right) and when it seemed like he was about to lose possession, as Kagman's defense collapsed on him, the fourth grader had the presence of mind of passing the ball to Camacho, who was alone in the paint for the point-blank shot that gave Koblerville the go-ahead with less than a minute left in the title match.

"It's being at the right place,

right time with the right pass," Koblerville head coach Francis Mendiola said when asked about Lizama and Camacho's game-winning play. "Beside teaching our boys the basic skills in basketball, we also always remind them to be aware where they and their teammates are at so that play was a proof how important to know your spot in the game."

After Camacho's dagger, Kagman had multiple chances to score to tie the match. The

first one was when Jreyvon Sebu stole an inbound pass and sprinted to their frontcourt for a layup, but he overshot his mark. Jequinn Lizama ran with Sebu in the fastbreak play and went for the putback, however, he faltered too, with the ball rimming out.

After the back-to-back misses, the Marlins had one final opportunity to knot the count and send the game in overtime when Koblerville turned the ball anew. Francisco Delos Santos then got the possession and with the clock ticking, he drove to the basket, but his shot had too much spin on it and rolled out. There was a battle for the rebound for a few seconds before time expired and Koblerville escaped with the finals win.

Koblerville, besides winning the boys championship trophy, also finished the season undefeated in 11 games. The Umangs prevailed in all their eight matches in the preliminaries, downed Brilliant Star School in the first round of the single-elimination playoffs last weekend, 24-6, and topped Garapan Elementary



Agape Christian School players and coach Pastor Kok H. Pang pose with the championship plaque after they beat Garapan Elementary School in the girls division of 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Elementary Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

See FINALE on Page 23



Koblerville Elementary School's Gio Camacho, left, beats Kagman Elementary School's Jreyvon Sebu and Kevin Ruwaath in this rebound play during the second half of their title game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Elementary Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO